cise is from Sainsbury's.

a leading role in a government

food industry figure on an ad-

visory committee for the exer-

The consultation will ask how

The Northern Ireland Assembly voted on a blueprint for its future Home P2

Number's UD Oftel was criticised over phone number changes

Blood on the floor The Aids and blood bank trial of French ministers is nearing farce Foreign P12

The magic of Muzak America is rediscovering the sound of Muzak Foreign P16

Barclays checks costs The high street bank is to attack costs and a slump in profits **Business P17**

Hill gets the boot Gloucester rugby club sacks coach Richard Hill Sport P28

Anne McElvoy The Government must listen to our fears about genetically modified food omment P3

What's to be done about London's transport bell? Comment P4

You ask the question Gerry Adams responds to readers' queries



THE INDEPENDENT

THE MAIN FLASHPOINTS

Hanover: About 15

at police

protesters occupy the Greek

consulate and throw missiles

Moscow: Demonstrators

occupying Greek embassy

London: A woman sets

Kurdish demonstrators

protesters occupy Greek

themselves with petrol

Geneva: More than 20

way into Greek embassy.

Copenhagen: Woman sets

herself on fire at the Greek

embassy. 48 protesters held

Stockholm: 50 pro-Kurdish

demonstrators arrested after

scuffles at Greek embassy.

Milan: 20 Kurds force their

Yerevan: Kurdish protesters

AUSTRALIA 13t

HONG KONG 15

NEW ZEALAND 13n

ISRAEL 150

JAPAN 160

CHILE 38p

USA 7D

MAURITIUS 40

SINGAPORE 180

THAILAND 40r

SOUTH AFRICA 31

MOROCCO 45

TURKEY 23t

way into Greek consulate.

occupy UN office in

Armenian capital

demonstrators enter a UN

Berne: Demonstrators force

Vienna: Greek and Kenyan

Brussels: About 50

embassy and douse

embassies stormed

building

herself alight as about 80

give themselves up to police

occupying the Greek embassy

The Hague: 150 Kurds storm

Zurich: Demonstrators force

Paris: Police eject protesters

(above) from Kenyan embassy

way into Greek consulate,

Greek ambassador's

taking two hostages

and Greek consulate

Strasbourg: Police fire

teargas at 30 protesters

Inside Greek consulate

Marseille: Dozens of

Greek consulate

occupy consulate

consulates

Greek consulate

protesters forced out of

Bonn: Hostages held in

Kenyan and Greek embassies

Leipzig: Three held in Greek

Stuttgart: 27 arrested after

storming Greek embassy.

Frankfurt: 50 protesters

Woman sets herself on fire

Hamburg: Protesters gather

in front of Greek and British

arrested trying to occupy the

Dusseldorf: Demonstrators

Cologne: More than 30

attack Greek consulate

residence, taking family

BUSINESS REVIEW COMMENT, ANALYSIS, ADVICE. EVERY WEDNESDAY

THE MAN WHO OWNS CYBERSPACE 1 THE COMPANY THAT ATE AMERICA 1 SHARE TIPS



Embassies under siege as Kurds orchestrate Europe-wide protest

ENRAGED KURDISH protesters By JUSTIN HUGGLER were occupying a dozen Greek in Islanbul, and Kenyan missions in London and elsewhere across Europe last night, after Turkey captured and brought home from Nairobi the fugitive Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah

Last night more than 80 Kurds had stormed and taken control of the Greek embassy in London's Holland Park, as Turkey, on Ankara's ties with hundreds maintained a tense stand-off with the police outside. A 15-year-old girl set fire to her hair and was taken to hospital with burns.

Necla Kanpeper, 15, was saved by police who managed to use their jackets to put out the flames. Kurds inside the embassy told The Independent by telephone that if the police tried to force the situation, they would commit suicide. "All of us

are ready to die," one said. In Ankara, Bulent Ecevit. the Prime Minister, told his bassy building until Monday countrymen that Mr Ocalan, when he left of his own accord wanted as a traitor and a ter- and went with the Kenyan aurorist for his part in a 14-year thorities to the airport expectcivil war which has taken 29,000 lives, had been brought back. Instead he found himself on a from Kenya and was behind bars. "We promised the state rived at 3am yesterday. would capture him wherever he

But even before Mr Ecevit made his announcement, Kurdish exiles had started a precisely orchestrated pre-dawn occupation of embassies and consulates, after Greece had announced that Mr Ocalan. who could face the death penalty in Turkey, was in Kenyan hands. The order seems to have been issued by the high command of Mr Ocalan's Kur-

distan Workers Party (PPK). Some 25 European countries were caught up in the protest. Several had refused to allow his plane to land on 1 February as the Kurdish leader, expelled from Italy, sought sanctuary. By evening, missions in France, Russia and elsewhere had been evacuated, either voluntarily or by force. But in Britain, Austria, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

tension was rising.
In the Hague about 150 Kurds stormed the Greek embassy residence, taking hostage the ambassador's wife, his eight-year-old son and a Filipino servant. In Zurich, Demonstrators stormed into the Greek

PAUL WOOD in Athens and ANDREW BUNCOMBE

consulate, taking hostage two

people. Yesterday's events will have an impact on the allied war of attrition against President Saddam Hussein, on ever fraught relations between Greece and the European Union, and on the struggie of 20 million Kurds spread among Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria to forge an independent country.

Mystery surrounds the circumstances of Mr Ocalan's recapture. According to the Greek Foreign Minister. Theodoros Pangalos, the Kurdish leader had flown to Kenya on a private plane on 2 February after a refuelling stop on the Greek island of Corfu. There he stayed incognito at a Greek eming to fly to the Netherlands. plane for Turkey, where he ar-

But the Kenyans said they went, and we have kept our had nothing to do with the incident, while one of Mr Ocalan's lawyers said he was dragged out. In Washington, a spokesman for the Clinton administration, which is desperate to retain Turkey's backing for its pressure on Saddam Hussein, said the US had no "direct involvement".

Diplomats in Athens painted a picture of a Greek operation to take charge of Mr Ocalan's future, which had gone badly wrong, with Athens being fooled into handing the PKK leader into the arms of his captors. That line held for a few hours until the Turks announced they had Mr Ocalan. Mr Pangalos was forced to admit the PKK leader was being escorted to the airport in Nairobi by Greek officials when his car "disappeared" down a side street. Mr Pangalos warned that if the violence did not cease, "serious measures" would be taken against the

The president of the Kurdish parliament in exile, Yasser Kaya issued an appeal for the action to stop, but to no effect.



Wave of attacks, Page 3 Necla Kanpeper, aged 15, who set herself on fire outside the Greek embassy in London

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on your

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the fastest growing telecoms Communications Visek International

PRIMUS

Sainsbury had official GM food role

By Fran Abrams LORD SAINSBURY has attend-Westminster Correspondent ed government meetings relating to genetically modified modified crops, genetic testing food despite his financial inand cloning. In December Lord terest in the issue. The Inde-Sainsbury chaired a conference pendent has learnt. on it attended by groups in-The Science minister looked

increasingly embattled last Friends of the Earth. Earlier this mght after claiming earlier that month he took part in a debate he had stood aside from dison the exercise in a cabinet subcussions on the issue. committee on biotechnology. Lord Sainsbury of Turville, whose supermarket shareholding is in a trust, has taken

John Redwood, the Conservative trade and industry spokesman, said Lord Sainshury should resign. "He has a consultation to which GM food and crops are central. The only lot of explaining to do. A minister either has to sell all his shares or avoid contact with issues related to them. When is this minister going to obey the the public views genetically rules?" he said.

Yesterday, Lord Sainsbury said there was no conflict of interest. "I have not taken part in any government decisions or discussions relating to GM food policy," he said. cluding Greenpeace and

Later, his department issued a clarification, saying Lord Sainsbury took part in discussions that did not involve policy-making. The only recent policy-making discussion on GM food had taken place at the February cabinet committee meeting and the minister had

"There is a very clear difference between actually making decisions and discussing policy matters, and having a general discussion," he said. The Prime Minister, Tony

left, a spokesman said.

ORD SAINSBURY

Blair, attacked the Tories for

"hypocrisy and opportunism". He added: "There is no conflict of interest whatsoever ... the hounding of Lord Sainsbury is unpleasant and wrong."

"The real issues are the impact on the environment and the food chain. Until a few weeks ago the Tories thought GM stood for Lord Sainsbury announced

'General Motors'," he said. his public consultation on biosciences on 15 December. though a similar exercise had begun under his predecessor, John Battle. Its advisory committee included Alison Austin. from Sainsbury's, as well as scientists and a biotechnology company, though the DTI said she had been appointed by Mr Battle.

The exercise would explore the implications of progress in the biosciences, Lord Sainsbury's press release said. "Our long-term aim is to build public

use of scientific information and know-how," he said. In addition to his supermarket interests, Lord Sains-

confidence in the Government's

bury gave financial backing to two biotechnology companies, Diatech and Innotech Investments. Yesterday he denied a report that he owned the patent for the cauliflower mosaic virus, the gene at the centre of the current food row, but said he did own another GM patent on a product called a translator enhancer. All the interests had been placed in his blind trust,

Scientists' scorn, page 4 Parliament, page 8 Leading Article, Review, page 3

The path of death With the jury in Belarus for Britain's first war-crimes trial

Norman Baker, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on GM foods, also attacked the Tories. INSIDE THE REVIEW

Review Front

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

I made my brother a promise on his deathbed. Now I don't know if I can keep it

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE'S DILEMMAS

ANTHONY QUINN ON 'AFFLICTION'

PLUS LAW AND **EDUCATION**

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD IACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIEFE, MILES KINGTON, SUT ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Trimble fights off rebellion as vote is split

DAVID TRIMBLE, the Ulster BY DAVID MCKITTRICK Unionist leader, successfully held his party together yester day as the Northern Ireland assembly finally accepted a report on the future shape of government of the province.

Only one of his 30 backbenchers voted against the motion, which was passed by the large majority of 77 votes to 29. The scene is now set for a showdown on the issue of arms decommissioning, which must be settled before the new administration comes into being.

Among Unionist assembly members the vote was split exactly evenly, at 29-29. While this clearly does not represent a comfortable lead for Mr Trimble. most of his supporters viewed the outcome as at least a relief and at most a victory of sort.

A second backbencher, Roy Beggs Jr. had vacillated on his voting intentions but in the end toed the party line. In doing so he apparently shrugged off the influence of his father, who is an MP and a strong opponent of the Good Friday Agreement.

Mr Beggs Jr said that while he had reservations, he had received concrete assurances on the decommissioning issue from Mr Trimble, He added:

Ireland Correspondent

"Public opinion across the British Isles is solid on this issue. Unreconstructed terrorists cannot sit in a democratic government."

After the vote the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, is technically in the position of being able to announce the formation of a new executive. In political terms, however, this must await a new measure of agreement on the decommissioning issue.

This view was endorsed yesterday by the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, in the latest of his sometimes confusing statements on decommissioning. He told the Dail in Dublin: The political reality is that we cannot get to the position of setting up an executive - which we desperately need to do, and we are getting to a situation that is getting more desperate every day without finding a compromise."

The even 29-29 split among unionist assembly members denied the Rev Ian Paisley the chance to argue that Mr Trimhle's stance was supported by only a minority within unionism.

Although the result brought solved," he said.

the Ulster Unionist leader, it is plain enough that he kept his supporters on board by assuring them yet again that he could secure actual decommissioning from the IRA, or alternatively could form a new executive without Sinn Fein.

The republican refusal to decommission, on the other hand, remains as implacable as ever, which means a tough period of negotiation lies ahead.

Gerry Adams said last night the transfer of powers to the Assembly would lead to a breakthrough over IRA arms decommissioning. The Sinn Fein president was speaking after a meeting at Downing Street with Tony Blair to keep up the momentum towards the 10 March deadline for transferring powers to the Assembly

Mr Adams rejected the Unionist demands for decommissioning before sitting in the executive. He said that the transfer of powers would be the key to resolving the impasse.

"My view is that if the two governments keep to the agreement and the parties keep to the agreement, while it will be difficult, this issue can be re-



The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, holding a grenade pin used in an attack on a Catholic pub in Co Armagh 10 days ago, after he met Tony Blair in 10 Downing Street yesterday

Baked potatoes ward off cancer

BY JEREMY LAURANCE. Health Editor

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL perts rallied to the cause of the baked potato as one of the most effective defences against most effective defences against cancer. They were challenging a US study that suggested dietary fibre, found in abundance in potatoes with stins and in other vegetables, failed to protect against bowel cancer.

Gordon McVie, director gen eral of the Cancer Research Campaign, said yesterday the study of 89,000 nurses in the New England Journal of Medicine last month was not representative of the general population. "The New England Journal paper does not change the message. A high-fibre, low-fat diet protects against bowel cancer.'

The study contradicted the accepted wisdom of the benefits of fibre. The US researchers said cancer was as common in women, regardless of how much fibre they ate.

But Professor McVie reviewed the research on fibre and cancer, and said the overwhelming evidence supports the benefits of a high-fibre diet, which can also reduce the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure and non-insulindependent diabetes.

Of the 39 studies on fibre and cancer, most showed it had a protective effect. The latest research, in the European Journal of Cancer Prevention, was further proof of the benefits of fibre, he added. Professor McVie said more research was needed but the recommended intake of 18 to 20 grams of fibre. or five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, still stands.

Ten slices of wholemeal bread, 18 bananas, four baked potatoes or 64 wholemeal crackers contain the suggested daily allowance of fibre but Professor McVie suggested a variety of fibre-rich foods to keep cancer at bay.

'Save duty free' campaign dealt blow by EU report

THE EUROPEAN Commis- By Colin Brown sion will deliver a blow today to the campaign to save duty-free sales by disputing claims from free sales would produce "both the European Union's biggest members that abolition will cause massive job losses.

Drafts of a report, prepared by commission officials, conclude that an extension to duty-

AND STEPHEN CASTLE

economic and legal obstacles" and would be a "disproportionate answer to the identified problem".

Ferry companies have

be lost and fares would rise if after a review by officials and free sales, and that was unlikely. advantage of duty-free sales.

The campaign to save dutyfree sales was taken up by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott. It was supported by Germany and France but Brussels commissioners are today to overturn the earlier com-

they lose their unique trading a report by Mario Monti, the commissioner for the internal market.

free sales from 1 July. A senior commission source said Britain would need unanimous backing warned hundreds of jobs could expected to reject extension mission decision to stop duty-

Denmark is believed to be hold-It could bring an end to duty- is also among those classed as does not go far enough. We are porters warned that unless ferry

Mr Prescott said last night that Britain attached "the highest political importance" to getting a better deal for duty free. regime," he said.

new report from Commissionlooking both for a significant extension to the current arrangements and urgent work to develop a better successor

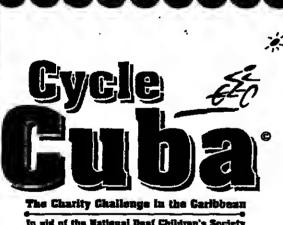
YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Marcoust: Worthing 11C (52F) Coldest (day): Lervick 0C (32F)

Lerwick 0.55 ins est: Great Yarmouth 7.0 hrs

Tony Blair, who wrote to Euroing out against pressure from er Monti but if it does not offer pean leaders urging them to the campaigners, and Belgium an extension of duty free it support the campaign. The supcompanies were allowed to continue making profits from dutyfree trade, they may have to raise prices by at least 10 per cent. Air fares could also be effected.



In sid of the Matiezai Beaf Children's Society

We are looking for adventurous people to join us for the trip of a lifetime cycling 250 miles across the most beautiful of Caribbean Islands. You can enjoy the lush tropical landscapes, soft sandy beaches, fine architecture and warm friendly welcome. Experience this most fascinating of places the way mosf Cubans travel - on a bike!

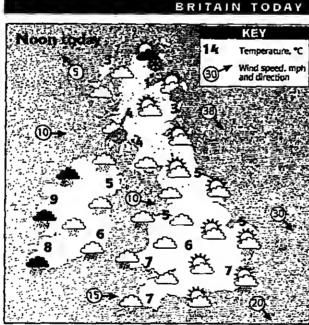
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> All riders must be over 18, pay an initial deposit of £250 and pledge to raise the nount of sponsorship for the snot Deaf Children's Society





FORECAST

al situation Southern and eastern England will start chitly with sunny break overs. Towards midday, rain will anthe in Wales and western England, with new northern Nills. Could will then spread east bringing rain and siect to the England by evening Sootland will start frosty but mosity surny with snow is in the north-east. Rain, siect and snow will reach the west later. Northern will have rain, possibly preceded by sleet, before turning much midden. SE England, London, E Anglia, E & NE England: Cold with surnly spells and showers. Rain and skeet later, A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 6-90 (43-48P).

wards, preceded by snow over northern hills, A light to moverly wind. Max temp 6-90 (43-48F). M Ireland: Early sleet and hill-snow turning to rain, the rain becoming neavier this afternoon but it will turn mild. A light westerly wind. Max cemp 7-10C (45-507). SW & NW Sontland, Glasgow, W Islam: A frozy but bright start. Ooud increasing soon bringing sleet and snow from the west, turning to rain later. A light and variable wind. Max temp 3-5C (37-41F).

SW England, Wales, NW & Cent N England, Lake Dist, Isle of Magt Rain from

SE Scotland, Edinburgh: Surry but trosty this marring. Cloud increasing this atternoon. A fresh north-westerly wind, Max temp 3-6C (37-43F). NE Scotland, Aberdees, N Islest Very cold and frosty with surny spells and hear snow showers. A strong to near-gale force north-westerly wind. Max terrip 0-30

OUTLOOK

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Floundabout, Leybristone, Major roadworks on new M11 ink road, Unil 31st December. Cambridgeshire A10 between Foxton and M11, Resultating and bridge maintenance work at Shepreth M8I, Until 14th February. Briestic M5, J18-13, Major Readworks on Avonnouth Bridge, Unil 23rd June 2001. Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tamworth services and J9 Sutton Coldified. Readworks and contratiow. Until 23rd April. Greater Manchester A57, Narrow lanes. Manchester-bound, due to Metrolink con-struction work. Until 28th February.

South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Vaduct (A8108) & J34 Tinsley Visduct (A6178). Shelfield, Carriageway reduced to 2 lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000.

LIGHTING UP 5.34pm 5.23pm 5.28pm 5.24pm 5.19pm 5.22pm 5.16pm

HIGH TIDES AM HT 7.57 13.6 6.15 4.4 6.29 5.6 11.40 6.6 7.16 6.07 8.28 9.07 4.55

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Today's readings

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WEATHERLINE For the latest forecases dial **9891 5009** followed by the two ofgics for your area. Source: The Met, Office, Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

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5.7 0.02 RAIN OR

SHINE...

HUNDREDS of communities cut off by blizzards in Hungary last week now face a threat from serious flooding as temperatures start to rise. The last of the villages was reached yes-terday. Officials in Budapost said that the snow on the Alps and eastern Carpathians that surround the country could melt soon. Thousands of soldiers worked round the clock to get to more than 200 towns and villages that were cut off.



THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY warm front
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ILM

Hour by hour, a new Kurd attack

THE CALLS began within hours of the news that Abdullah Ocalan had been arrested. They started after a meeting of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in its mountain stronghold in the borderlands of Iraq and Iran and fanned out through Madrid, Rome, Paris London, Bonn and Moscow.

At 4.30pm yesterday, outside Park, London, Necla Kanpeper, 15, doused herself in petrol and set herself alight while shouting slogans of Kurdish freedom. As she was taken away on a stretcher, badly burnt, she gave a victory sign. The crowd cheered.

The bours between the call to mobilise and Necla's selfimmolation was a demonstration of the power of the Kurds' network. Across Europe huildings were stormed and occupied, demonstrators set themselves on fire and there were battles with police. The raids had the precision of mil-. BY KIM SENGUPTA

night men, women and children gathered at PKK offices to coordinate action. Then the raidsbegan. Mainly the targets were Greek embassies, Greece being the country the Kurds hlamed for denying Mr Ocalan asylum and delivering him to the Turks.

At 1.30am in The Hague the the Greek a to the Netherlands was asleep at home with the couple's eightyear-old son and a Filipina maid when they were awoken by glass and breaking doors as protesters burst in.

As police went to the house the Kurdish flag, bearing a portrait of Mr Ocalan, was hung out of the window. In the next few hours hundreds more Kurds gathered, trying to force their way in and being beaten back by riot police.

At 2.50am, at the Greek embassy in Park Road, Holland Park, the caretaker, Babis Patsouris, was awoken by the front itary operations. On Monday door being smashed. Scotland

Yard's Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Group officers arrived with other colleagues and set in motion a plan honed over previous sieges.

Over the next few bours similar scenes were played out in more than 20 cities across Europe. In Geneva, at 4.30am, 50 Kurds slipped through a side-door at the Palais des Nations, the UN's European her quarters, and overpowered the only guard. A UN spokeswoman said the protesters "were probably armed" and demands had been issued for the freeing of Mr Ocalan. She said no such assurance could be given and the Kurds were being

asked to leave. But instead of leaving other Kurds smashed their way into the Greek embassy in the Swiss capital, Berne, and the consulate in Zurich, where they took hostage the consulate building's owner and a police-

man who tried to negotiate. From then on every hour brought a fresh assault on a diplomatic building. They were Hamburg. Berlin, Cologne, not always Greek. Kenya is Düsseldorf and Hanover. also seen by the Kurds as cui-The reaction of the govern-

pable in Mr Ocalan's arrest and in Paris police ejected protesters who bad taken over the Kenyan embassy. The nononsense approach of the French was also in evidence in Strasbourg, where they fired teargas into the occupied Greek consulate and retook it holding 30 Kurds. They used the

Greek consulate in Marseilles. The Kenyan embassy in Vienna was stormed at 8.30am. Three hours earlier a group broke into the Greek legation, taking hostage the ambassador, Ioannis Yennimatas, his wife,

same tactics to recapture the

and three embassy staff. In Germany, which has the largest Kurdish population in Europe, the Kenyan embassy in Bonn was occupied and two staff held. Another staffer at the Greek embassy was held hostage. Kurds occupied consulates or held protests in Leipzig, Stuttgart, Frankfurt,

ments on the receiving end of the raids was mostly bewilderment. They were caught on the hop. Greece said it was furious and threatened "merciless" retribution. Dozens of Kurds were rounded up and jailed in Greek cities.

Through its political wing ERNK, PKK leaders said the occupations were a spontaneous act of popular anger

But the plans were laid before Mr Ocalan arrived in Turkey yesterday morning, and when it was still believed be was in Kenya. The protests were organised on Monday night, in

what turned out to be failed last-

ditch attempt to press Greece

over which they had no control.

not to hand him to the Ankara government. tinued, the Foreign Office said the matter was "essentially be-

has apparently renounced violence, there is still substantial evidence of recent violent terrorist activities by the PKK". The Kurds in the embassy

retorted that, if necessary, they would kill themselves in trying to free their leader. During the day it became clear this was no empty threat.

In Stuttgart a 17-year-old Kurd received serious burns after dousing berself in petrol. tween Turkish and Kenyan au- In Copenhagen another woman Kurdish issue."

thorities". Although "Ocalan was critically ill, also after selfimmolation. News of events around Eu-

rope filtered back to the crowd at the London embassy. Bottles were thrown and barriers kicked down. Negotiations were going on with those inside the embassy. It was then that Necla Kanpeper poured petrol over berself and set herself on fire. Her mother said: "She did it in protest at the totally unjustified British and world stance on the

Psychopathic killer who is great hope of a nation

OFFERING ONE of his regular Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) ceasefires to the Turkish army, Abdullah Ocalan appeared at a damp, draughty press conference in a cement shack in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon six years ago. His theme: the brotherhood of the Turkish and Kurdish peoples. "We are so close, we are like the finger and the fingernail," he announced. And I couldn't belp wondering how often the two had been separated in southern Turkey.

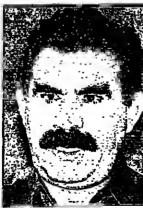
Ocalan is, even in many Kurdish eyes, a psychopathic killer – a Kurdish Abu Nidal who punished suspicion with death, whose guerrillas tamed their opponents not just with collaborator executions but with the slaughter of every member of the family of every collaborator. The Turkish security forces responded with murder, ethnic cleansing and wbolesale invasion of the very northern Iraqi "safe haven" which we - the West - set up for the genocidestricken Kurds.

Ocalan is no political inno-Ment, no abider by human ights, no Robin Hood - though the socialist characteristic might suit the man with the bright, staring eyes. "Both Kurds and Turks are tired of bloodletting," he told us in 1993.

"Permit me to return unarmed to Kurdistan in peace to practice political action and start a dialogue between us." The Turks told him to get lost.

But the events of the past 24 hours embrace more than just international hypocrisy. There stroyed by President Saddam

BY ROBERT FISK Middle East Correspondent



Ocalan: To be extradited

is a broader, far more important context to the capture of Abdullah Ocalan - a story of American intrigue, Kurdish betrayal and superpower support for the Muslim nation, Turkey, which has become Israel's newest ally in the Middle East.

Yesterday's seizure of the Kurds' most radical leader is likely to lead to much further violence: to the hijacking of Turkish aircraft, to attacks on Turkish embassies and diplomats - as the Turks are themselves well aware.

But it also raises questions about the policies of the United States towards Kurdistan's 20 million people, the largest nation in the world without a state. Only a month ago, the United States, whose CIA mission in northern Iraq was deHussein in 1996, was trying yet again to create an anti-Saddam lliance between the two more parochial Kurdish leaders, Massoud Barzani of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

After their visit to Washington Barzani, whose movement collaborated with Saddam to destroy the PUK three years ago, and Talabani, whose support from Iran gave Barzani an excuse for seeking his overthrow, are now - more or less - on board the latest US campaign to overthrow the Beast of Baghdad.

With very good reason, Turkey was deeply troubled at this latest alliance. If Barzani and Talabani were ever to create an embryo Kurdish state in northern Iraq, the threat of a much larger Kurdish entity including parts of Turkey, Syria and Iran as well as Iraq - would appear greater The Turks were thus very suspicious of Wash-

ington's latest "peace-making". If the western Allies bad offered independence to the Arabs who overthrew their mutual enemies (the Ottoman Empire) in the First World War, why shouldn't Washington offer independence to the Kurds if they helped to topple Saddam?

How could Turkey show its anger? One way: to invite a senior Iragi official to Ankara to discuss a withdrawal of Turkish landing rights for US and British fighter-bombers at the Incirlik and Batman airbases in southern Turkey - the very air- Middle East

aircraft are bombing northern Iraq. Tariq Aziz duly arrived in Ankara at the weekend as an honoured guest of the Turkish prime minister, Bulent Ecevit only to be told, on Monday, that his request had been turned down. And then - momentum mirabilis - within hours of Torkey's rebuff to the Iracis, Ocalan fell into their hands in Nairobi, where the CIA happens

to have its Africa headquarters. After its military-strategic alliance with Israel, Turkey has become one of America's best friends in the Middle East and an even more important strategic ally against Iraq. Ever since Ocalan was put aboard a flight out of Syria last year for Moscow, Rome and points east and south, Washington has demanded the PKK leader's extradition to Turkey.

The US administration knew that Turkey would demand capital punishment for its most infamous "terrorist" - so its advice was, in effect, a death

So what happens next? True, it's not a good time to fly on Turkish airlines or take a Turkish holiday or queue at a Turkish embassy visa office. Mr Ocalan's chums are about as choosy as a Cruise missile when it comes to the civilians they slaughter in the pursuit of

their longer-term political aims. But the Kurds, whose existence merits a state every bit as much as the Palestinians. are again a major issue in the



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Scientists pour scorn on food scare

THE SCIENTIST at the centre of BY CHARLES ARTHUR the furore over genetically mod-ified (GM) food broke his silence yesterday to say he was sure his fears about it would be proved

Less than two hours after a gagging order on him was lifted. Dr Arpad Pusztai reiterated his fears about transgenic potatoes he had used in experiments on rats. "I would not eat them," he said. His work is now being submitted for review by independent scientists, who will inform the Government whether it has any merit. Previously Dr Pusztai had claimed, through intermediaries, that the Rowett Institute in Aberdeen, where he had carried out the work, was suppressing his results.

Yesterday, the Rowett announced that it would publish the results and pass them for independent examination to the Royal Societies in London

Since being forced to retire last August, after the rat experiments were discredited by an investigation at the institute. Dr Pusztai, 68, has suffered a heart attack and been under a legal ban preventing him discussing the matter publicly.

In a statement yesterday. the Rowett said: "Dr Pusztai has been repeatedly requested to provide papers for publication on all his work. He has not yet done so," It added: "The institute can no longer be responsible for his analyses or views."

Meanwhile, leading British experts in plant science

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ON THE ART DISTRIBUTE AND THE SELVE

AND STEVE CONNOR

GM potatoes, some of which had had lectins - a potential toxin -

added separately. The results were a "red herring", said a panel of scientists from universities and publicly funded research institutes, and should not be used as an excuse for a moratorium on the development and growth of transgenic crops. One of the panel accused Dr Pusztai of double standards, pointing out that he had applied for a biotechnology patent on a plant protein, and had claimed in other studies that the same lectins used in the Rowett experiment could

"The gentleman wants it both sides," said Professor Christopher Leaver, head of the plant science department at Oxford University. "The experiments from what I know of them were rather muddled. We must not generalise from a simple, lab-based experiment."

Supporters of Dr Pusztai have claimed that the results of his rat feeding experiments indicate that the "gene switch" used in the process - called a cauliflower mosaic virus promoter - may stunt the growth and immune system.

However, Professor Leave said the cauliflower mosaic virus is ubiquitous and everyone has eaten it many times with their food, "It's the most widespread gene promoter in science and there is very little doubt it is safe," he said.

Ray Baker, chief executive of the Biotechnology and Biolog-

ical Sciences Research Council, said Dr Pusztai's views were unepresentative and that there are thousands of scientists who would support the potential benefits of GM food and crops.

He said it was important "to reject the idea that scientists are speaking with different voices" on an issue that has generated 25,000 field trials in 45 countries involving 60 different plant species. Professor Don Grierson, a geneticist at Nottingham University whose work led to the first GM tomato, said his findings had meant less waste and a better product. "It's wrong to say it's Frankenstein food," he said.

Claims that GM food is not thoroughly tested were also attacked by Mike Gasson, head of genetics and microbiology at the Institute of Food Research in Norwich. The tests on GM food cover nutritional value, potential toxicity, the unwitting transfer of genes from one concern over possible secondary effects of genetic modification. "All of those issues are nothing in the marketplace now is in anyway unsafe," said

■ A coalition of 29 consumer, development, health and environment organisations called for a five-year block on commercial growing of GM foods for commercial purposes yesterday. "The Government seems to be deaf to all but a few, carefully selected commercially based opinions," said the campaign coordinator, Sandra Bell.



'Safety' a priority, page 8 GM food opponents highlight their fears with a display of a giant ice cube containing five 'mutated' fish in London yesterday Philip Meech



grounds for retaining the beefon-the-bone ban, the government's Chief Scientific Adviser

said yesterday. Sir Robert May announced that there was "not much of a case" for the ban and claimed that it was politics rather than hard evidence that had persuaded ministers to keep it in

Sir Robert's comments contradicted the Minister of Agriculture, Nick Brown, who decided to extend the ban by six months on the grounds of scientific advice and because the need to protect public health was "paramount".

Mr Brown infuriated farmers but claimed that he had to follow the advice, revealed in The Independent, of the Chief Medical Officer, Liam Donaldson, that there was still a small risk of BSE remaining in beef

Political Correspondent

But Sir Robert, the Department of Trade and Industry's most senior scientist, said that the ban was "a mixture, in my view, of a political and scientific decision. On purely scientific grounds I personally don't see much point in banning beef-on-

the-bone," he told BBC radio. "But you have to see it in a much wider context of the past history particularly in Europe," he added.

The Shadow trade and industry secretary, John Redwood, said that Sir Robert's comments proved the "humbug" of the Government's

stance. The National Farmers' Union also welcomed his comments, claiming that they proved the six-month ban should be lifted immediately. "We have always said that.

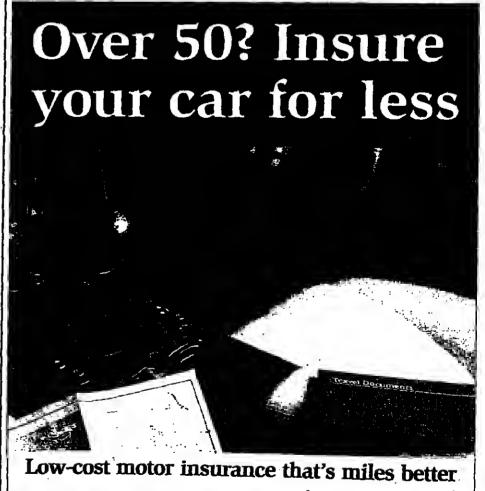
based on the scientific evidence available and the minute risk from beef-on-the-hone, consumers should have the freedom to choose whether they eat it or not," a spokesman

"Whether the decision is scientific or political, the fact is that the ban has not been liftedyet. In term of our members this may cause concern but to a certain extent it doesn't mat-

ter what the reason is." -A leading Blairite think-tank claimed last night that the beefon-the-bone ban may have been motivated as much by the demands of Europe after the BSE-crisis as by concern for human health.

Demos said that it was time for the Government to stop using "pseudo science" and allow consumers to make up their own mind about beef on the bone and genetically mod-





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Attack on Oftel's number changes

THE TELEPHONE watchdog By SARAH SCHAEFER Oftel came in for fierce criticism yesterday for proposing yet another change to the numbering

It was accused of failing to out customers first and of being too easily swayed by phone companies' claims of technical difficulties with the existing

MPs said that Oftel should review the phone numbering scheme "so that in future the scheme puts customers' interests first". Plans to change phone numbers are due to be implemented in July. Customers in Cardiff, Coven-

try. London, Portsmouth, Southampton and Northern Ireland will have to change their numbers under the

The overhaul comes just four years after Phoneday, when numbers across the UK where altered by adding an extra 1 into every area code. Such changes are inconvenient for residential users and hit businesses with extra costs for publicising their new numbers.

The report by the Trade and Industry select committee said that Oftel had failed to consider alternatives to another upheaval and did not ask customers for their views. "We recommend that when Oftel next proposes changes to geographic codes, residential and business customers in each of the areas affected are directly consulted," the report said.

Businesses that now use the freephone 0800 system are furious about the new system. which will see all such numbers

bers, which will have to business, the consumer netchanged. The cost to business- work operators and the UK as of the swap has been estimat- a whole."

Political Reporter

ed at £500m. The committee said it was "totally unconvinced" by Oftel's arguments for the need to change freephone numbers.

It added that it was left with the impression that freephone changes were a "smokescreen" to allow Oftel to take control of the most valuable numbers, which it could then auction to companies.

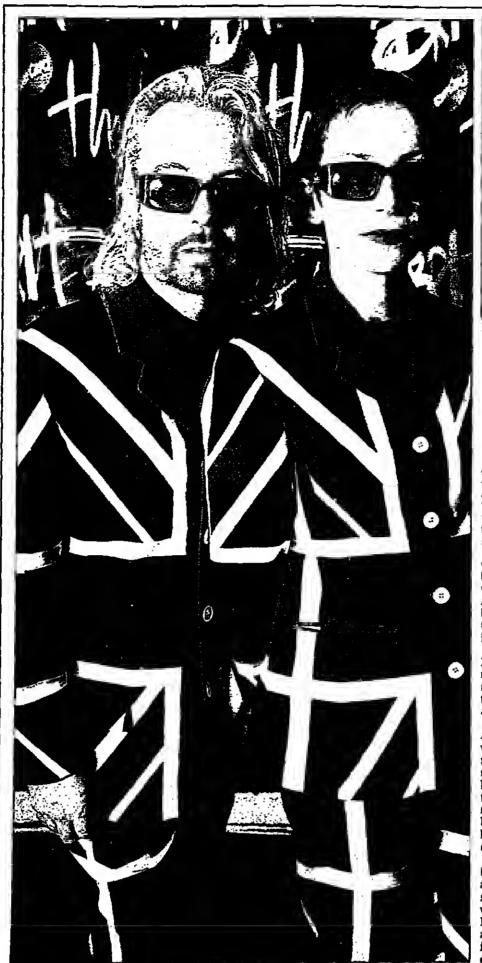
Oftel's director-general, David Edmonds, responded firmly to this last accusation, arguing that Oftel's primary aim was to ensure sufficient capacity on the telephone net-work. Mr Edmonds also said the changes to area codes were essential.

"If these code changes do not take place as planned, London and perhaps other cities will run out of telephone number capacity by summer 2000. It is highly unlikely, therefore, that significant change can or should be made to what is now known as The Big Number campaign."

On 0800 numbers, Oftel said it had held discussion with the Freephone Users Group and would look at new suggestions, which could allow some freephone users to continue to use their existing numbers.

The Freephone Users Group itself praised the MPs' report. Its chairman, John Chaplin, said: "We have waged a six-month campaign to make Oftel see sense. This report must help Oftel realise that its ideas were and always have been flawed.

We should now draw a line Many companies have spent under this unfortunate episode and maye forward with Offel to



Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics reformed to accept their award





Robbie Williams is the angel of the Brits

awards last night at The Brits Arts News Editor - the biggest event in the rock and pop calendar. The former Take That singer made a spectacular entrance at the start of the ceremony, coming on to the

The Manic Street Preachers won both the best group and best album awards; and there were two awards also for the Australian singer Natalie Imbruglia, voted best international newcomer and best

The Eurythmics - Annie

In an evening at the London Arena in Docklands glittering with celebrities, and cabinet ministers, the focal point of the show was a political one - the launch of "Drop the Debt", the music industry campaign, revealed in The Independent last week, to persuade world leaders to write off Third World

The campaign was launched by the rock star Bono, of U2. In Muhammad Ali, who has been

stage on a rope.

international female artist.

Lennox and Dave Stewart reformed to play a set at the show's climax after receiving the outstanding achievement award.

Preachers

Soundtrack: Titonic

an emotional moment he presented an award to the former world heavyweight champion for the Jubilee 2000 campaign to

ing is more important to the poorest nations of Africa and Latin America than to be able to keep more of what they earn and invest it in their people and the lives and well-being of their children. 1 support Jubilee

> THE WINNERS Best group: Manic Street

Album: Manic Street Preachers, This Is My Truth, Tell Me Yours Newcomer: Belle and Sebastian Dance act: Fatboy Slim

international group: The Corrs International newcomer: Natalie Imbruglia international male solo artist: Beck

International female solo artist: Natalie Imbruglia British male solo artist: Robbie Williams British female solo artist: Des'Ree Single: Robbie Williams, "Angels" "Millennlum" Outstanding

contribution: Eurythmics

of debt relief to the attention of the world."

Fatboy Slim, whose alter ego Norman Cook is marrying the Radio One presenter Zoe Ball, was voted best dance act, and The Corrs were best international group.

There was a further prize for the award laden Titonic. which woo best film soundtrack. Des'Ree was best British female artist, and Beck best male international artist. Indy band Belle and Sebas-

tian, highly popular on the college circuit, won the best British newcomer award. Robbie Williams's awards came for best British male

artist, best video for his song "Millennium", and best single for "Angels". There was surprisingly no award, despite three nomina-

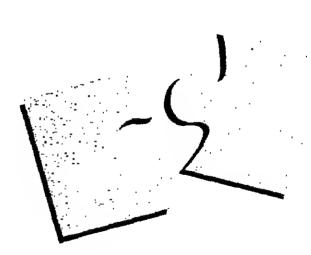
tions, for Gomez, the band that won the Mercury Music Prize last year. Other familiar names who missed out last night were Catatonia and Massive Attack, and in the international section Madonna and Alanis Moris-

sette. Some of the biggest names in British pop - such as the Spice Girls and Oasis - did not receive nominations because their albums were released outside the qualifying period.

The tragic groupies, Review, page 4

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Student admissions revolution planned

A REVOLUTION in the way students apply for universities has been proposed by a working group of teachers and academics. Students would apply electronically after they had taken A-levels, instead of being offered places on the basis of grades predicted by teachers.

Such a system has been discussed for years but never put out to consultation before. Previous attempts to introduce change foundered on the reluctance of universities to alter terms and the insistence of exam boards that the dates for schools exam results could not be brought forward.

At present, A-level results come out in the third week of August. Under proposals devised by the working party, applicants would express a preference for courses and universities during the previous two terms. They would go to open days and might be inter**Education Editor**

viewed. Exam results would be published about 10 days earlier in August. Students would have a week in which to apply to university and would list their preferences in order. They would be able to make three applications. Universities would in turn rank students in order.

The exercise would be made possible by electronic matching of applicants' choices to university places by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. Students would then have to wait at least 10 days to hear if they had succeeded.

Critics of the existing system say students have difficulty choosing the right course and institution because they pick a list of six universities in December, nine months before they want to go to college. Some do not achieve the ex-

pected grades and about 50,000 people enter the clearing process run by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, which matches students to spare places at the end of August and in September. Equalsome students do better than they expected.

A National Union of Students spokesman said: "The new system would give proper information to students, who could make informed decisions. We hope it will go some way to end the lottery of clearing and should be easier to administer and leave all concerned a lot

Brian Smith, chairman of the working group and vicechancellor of the University of Wales, said: "While the current system has some faults, it has proved to be generally reliable. We need to be sure any new system will be a real improve-

have feedback from admissions officers and others we will consider the system further"

four fi

Heads are eager for change John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "We have been fighting hard to press the case get away from the dependency on predicted grades and the long period between application and admission. I had hoped that the working party would lead to a full consultation of schools and universities rather than the present limited exercise."

The consultation will involve focus groups of admissions officers and schools.

Lord Dearing backed a postqualification admissions system in his report on higher education and expected that the new arrangements would begin

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For more information on the GM issue or Iceland's stance call our genetic hotline on 0990 133373 or pick up a leaflet in store.

Governors of failing colleges face the sack

FAILING COLLEGES that do By BEN RUSSELL not improve could be closed under an aggressive drive to raise standards, which is due to be announced today.

Ministers will tell governors they face the sack if they do not hit new targets for improving the worst performers. The manding yet to be imposed on further education colleges. George Mudie, an Education minister, is expected to deliver the Government's uncompromising message to the principals and governors of the 446 English colleges at their annual conference today.

The best colleges can expect financial rewards, but there will be "zero tolerance" of those marked down by inspectors. Mr Mudie is expected to tell the conference that some reports 'make shocking reading".

"There are some excellent complacency about standards; and there is some outright failure," he will say

Colleges, which provide academic and vocational courses for about four million people each year, are in the vanguard of Tony Blair's drive to expand access to education and training. As part of this, ministers are determined to cut drop-out rates, as high as 85 per cent on some courses. Absenteeism is another target, with up to 25 per cent of students missing class

in some cases. But Mr Mudie will praise the very best sixth-form and further **Education Correspondent**

education colleges, which produce A-level results on a par with the highest-achieving

grammar schools. Ministers will use a new £115m standards fund to back measures to improve teaching standards and staying-on rates. New regulations giving them the powers to intervene are already in place.

Governors at one of Britain's biggest colleges became the first victims of the clampdown earlier this month when they were forced to resign after receiving unprecedented criticism from the Further Education Funding Council. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, imposed a new board of governors at the 23,000-student Wirral Metropolitan College after allega-

Reports due out at the end of this month are expected to be highly critical of two forther colleges, Bilston Community College in Wolverhampton and Matthew Boulton College in Birmingham.

The warning to colleges comes after Mr Blunkett's announcement last year of the biggest expansion yet of sixthform and further education colleges. But he said the increase must be matched by improved standards. He warned then the Government "will be as tough on failing colleges as we have been on failing schools".

THE WORST RESULTS

Ranked by percentage of students who gain a qualification at the end of their course.

Arnold and Carlton College, Nottingham - 26% Coilege of North West London - 31% Working Men's College. London - 31% Royal Forest of Dean College - 32%

Hackney Community College - 33% Barnet College - 34% Hammersmith and West London College - 36% Basildon College - 40% City of Liverpool College

Stoke on Trent College - 40% Thomas Danby College- 40% Source: Confirmed figures from

IN BRIEF

Acid attack conviction upheld

PETER HUMPHREY 54, jailed for 12 years after setting up an acid attack that left a babysitter disfigured, lost his Court of Appeal claim that his conviction was unsafe. He hired a man to throw acid at his estranged wife in Seaton, Devon. But Beverley Hammett, 19, opened the door.

Girl eats stashed cocaine

A GIRL of three was taken to hospital in Newcastle after eating cocaine hidden by dealers in a discarded refrigerator. She thought it was sherbet and took a lick before running home. She left hospital after treatment.

Supermarket offers online love

STAFF AT the Bristol headquarters of Somerfield, the supermarket chain, are being given the chance to fall in love through their own internet dating page. Somerfield Soul Mates is thought to be a first in the workplace.

Crackdown on number plates

DRIVERS WHO customise their number plates to make them difficult to trace risk being fined and having the plates confiscated. The police and the Government will

launch a scheme next month to try to combat crime. Teenager killed mother over car

A TEENAGER who killed his mother by clubbing her with a champagne bottle when she would not let him use her car was jalled indefinitely. Simon Geldart, 18, of Darlington, Co Durham, was convicted of murder at Teesside Crown Court.

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THE INDEPENDENT

A HIGHLY controversial Danish film in which the characters pretend to be retarded and engage in some of the most explicit sex scenes outside the world of hard-core movies has been cleared for cinema release by the British Board of Film Classification.

The uncut version of Lars Von Trier's The Idiots, a comedy about a commune of young people who isolate themselves by pretending to be mentally ill or retarded, features a fleeting sexual penetration scene and erect penises in a group sex sequence. It premiered at last year's Cannes Film Festival on a wave of notoriety about its copious sex and nudity.

Although it received a further screening at the London Film Festival last November, there were doubts about whether it would receive the allclear for a national cinema release in its unabridged form.

The film's UK distributor, Metro Tartan, submitted The Idiots for classification at the

By Rhys Williams

relatively swift sanction marks the second significant decision by Robin Duval, who took over as director of the BBFC from James Ferman four weeks ago.

The fact that Mr Duval has wasted little time in both approving The Idiots and granting The Exorcist a video release will be seen by many in the film industry as evidence of the new regime's determination to act decisively rather than let difficult issues drag on indefinitely, as has happened in the past with films such as Crash.

Although the sight of penetrative sex and erect penises is not unprecedented in British high street cinemas - the 1991 Japanese film in the Realm of the Senses featured both, - it is extremely rare.

The other likely area of controversy relates to the depiction of the mentally ill and disabled. As well as the pretence adopted by the film's central characters, beginning of December and its The Idiots also includes extras



Lars Von Trier insisted on nude days, where the cast, crew and director would all strip off in a bid to return to 'pure cinema' Rex Features

issue was whether the film would be offensive to people with genuine disabilities and

that required a lot of thought. "The conclusion which we positive. In no sense was it revealing their inner idiot, The temporary cinema. He directed

who are genuinely disabled. insensitive or parodic of people film is more about the limitations of middle-class manners.

Sophie Tranchell, managing director of Metro Tartan, said: you watch it for half-an-hour, you will come away with the arrived at was that the wrong impression. The people approach was sensitive and who pretend to be disabled are

tions of middle-class manners. If you are cracking up inside is it more useful to hold it in or let "The film works as a whole, If it out? It's about inhibitions, that's why there's so much

nudity."

Mr Von Trier has a reputation as an enfant terrible of con-

ries The Kingdom was shown on British television recently. The Idiots is the first prod-

uct of Dogme 95, directors who agreed to make films under

the 1996 film Breaking the all scenes on location, using nat-Waves, which earned an Oscar ural light and hand-held camnomination for the actress eras. This "vow of chastity" is Emily Watson and his horror se- an attempt, they say, to return to a pure cinema, stripped of technical trickery. During the making of The Idiots, Mr Von Trier insisted on nude days strict rules, including shooting director, all went naked.

Code on forged art to be issued

BY IAN BURRELL Home Affairs Correspondent

A CODE intended to protect art lovers who mistakenly buy forged or stolen works is to be unveiled by the Home Office.

Paul Boateng, minister for Crime Reduction and the Police. will give details next month of a due diligence code, which will help duped buyers to make insurance or compensation claims for works of art that have to be returned to their

rightful owners. The code has been brought in to reform a market that depends largely on cash transactions and which some art experts denounced last night as "medieval". Its introduction follows the jailing this week of John Drewe for masterminding the biggest fraud in contemporary art this century.

Drewe flooded the international art market with works in the style of Alberto Giocometti, Ben Nicholson, Jean Dubuffet and Nicholas de Stael, He went to extraordinary lengths to provide histories, or provenances, for his works.

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The new code, featured in this week's Law Society Gazette, has been drawn up by the Association of Chief Police Officers in conjunction with the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft. It follows a 12month pilot project.

Under the guidelines, art buyers will be advised to establish the identity and address of the seller and request a "paper trail" of documents to support the artefact's sales history. They will also be advised to make checks with registers of stolen art and pay by cheque.

Robin Fry, a council director, said the code would help to modernise the art market. "At the moment people take more care in buying a lock-up garage in Southend than on the purchase of a piece of art costing £250,000. The art market is still operating the way it did 300 years ago," he said.

Racist threats drive English family out of Scotland

AN ENGLISH family who moved BY STEPHEN GOODWIN to Scotland a year ago are packing their bags to return south after enduring what they say has been a year-long stream of racist taunts and attacks. Their two young girls were threatened with having their throats slit and their win-

dows have been smashed. The last straw for John and Scotland Correspondent

Jane Annable, who moved from Nottingbamshire, came at the weekend when their house at Musselburgh was broken into - a burglary they are convinced was carried out by their anti-English tormentors.

"We know the people who did

it," Mrs Annable, 31, said yesterday. "They were actually out in the street when we got back, laughing about it and shouting, T*** off back to England you English b*******

Though the Commission for Racial Equality maintains such extreme anti-English behaviour is rare, there is increasing evidence of an ugly side to the

Scots' rekindled sense of nationhood. The Annable family seems to have been unlucky. Mrs Annable is half Scottish

and the family moved north after she traced her grandmother to Musselburgh. They moved out of their first home in the Granton area of Edinburgh when "racists" smashed every window in the flat.

since a mining accident 13 years ago, said it started with stones, but in the end their attackers were throwing rocks.

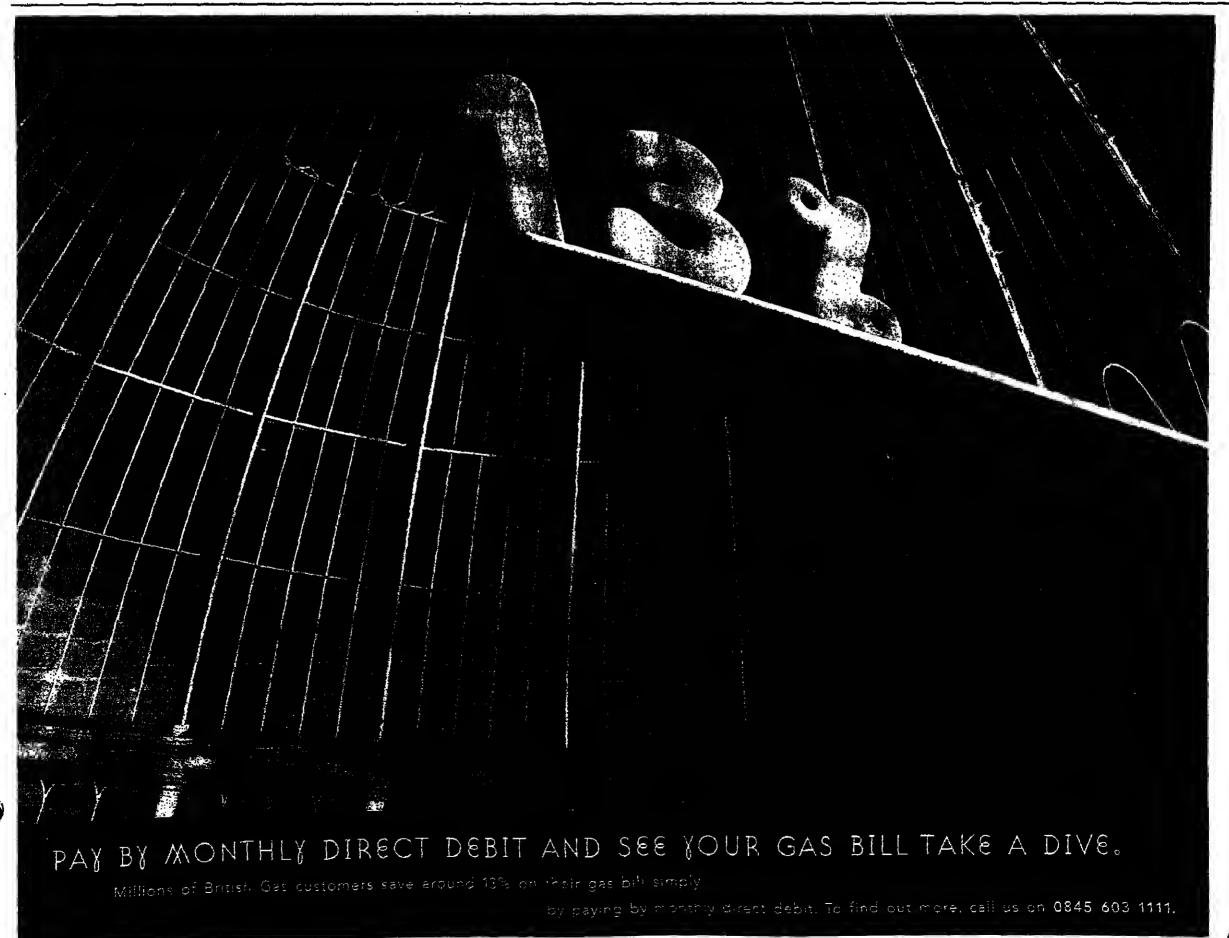
Similar hatred greeted them in Musselburgh. Police were called when eight-year old Amy was attacked in the street, a

Mr Annable, 35, disabled A car window was broken days before the burglary, in which £20,000 of property was stolen. His wife claimed the trouble

came from just two or three families who were not typical-"they're the scum of the earth" - and a lot of neighbours had been good to them. Mrs window was smashed and eggs Annable, who is a care assisthrown at the front of the house. tant, said she was too nervous anti-English incidents.

to go out unless it was to work.
"I definitely think the Scottish Parliament has something to do with this," she said.

Inspector Gavin Buist, race relations officer with Lothian and Borders Police, said a correlation had been noticed between the announcement of the Home Rule parliament and



KEEPING PRICES ON LOW. British Gas

Home Energy

Tories choke on chance to make a meal of GM panic

the Tory party backroom thought ernment in a mess. they would be on to a good thing by exploiting the public panic over ge-

netically modified food. There was the Prime Minister under pressure, they thought, from all quarters, with the high court of media and public opinion unimeats furnry food with relish and lashings of genetically modified tomato paste. All the politically organic ingredients were there for an opposition show-stopper: media hysteria, public outrage, ministerial links with supermarkets' profit mo-

So it was hardly surprising the Tory agriculture spokesman, Tim with a demand for a government emergency statement. Opposition whips had succeeded, for once, in mustering a respectable turn-out pressed by his statements that he and William Hague put in an appearance to encourage Mr Yeo to

blinded the House with science and bluster and regained the ini-

IT WAS easy to understand why the tives, sacked scientists, cover-ups Mr Yeo began by complaining that geeks and political eggheads in and a general feeling of the Gov-Brown, was absent and that no cabinet minister was present.

He accused the Government of Yeo, was encouraged to weigh in being under pressure from President Bill Clinton and, in a gibe against the DTI minister Lord Sainsbury of Turville, demanded ministers whose independence and integrity could be relied upon.

It should have been an easy ride go over the top. Yet things did not for Mr Yeo, but his obvious political go Mr Yeo's way for long.

The Food minister, Jeff Rooker, brightly for Mr Rooker to have much difficulty rebutting the assault. His most effective response tiative with a bravura performance. was a list of genetically modified THE SKETCH

products on sale, with dates, under Tory rule, when they were approved. "Tomato paste - approved în 1994; soya beans - 1995; maize - the Tories by saying he genuinely believed "we can say that the public can have confidence in foods placed on sale by ministers in the previous government".

"What about raw potatoes?" shouted a Tory from a sedentary position, in a reference to the alleged findings that have created the current scare. Mr Rooker seized his opportunity with a clever put-down. My advice on raw potatoes is the same as on raw chicken - don't eat it; don't do it."

His most devastating put-down of the Tories was to remind the Mr Taylor further to embarrass the

als for a food-labelling warning when they were in government.

By now Mr Rooker was in confident mood, aided by the Tory rebel Ian Taylor (Surbiton), who referred to "headless chickens" of the human variety who were a greater threat to the consumer than genetically modified food. Mr Taylor brought common sense to the proceedings by asking the minister to make clear to the public that there

is oo such thing as safe food. Mr Rooker was on a roll and seized the opportunity presented by

first approved in 1996-97." Mr Rook-er soon got into overdrive, trapping other EU member-states' propos-were not going his party's way and Stone) said "It doesn't matter what decisions were taken in the 1980s or 1990s", prompting Labour shouts of "Oh yes it does".

But Mr Cash made a plea, accepted by Mr Rooker, that the issue should not be left exclusively to serentists and should be referred to an ad-hoc select committee.

Mr Rooker sat down to backslaps from his own side, with the Tories looking bemused at how he bad successfully turned the tables against

Thomas Sutcliffe is away

Safety pledge on sale of modified food

THE GOVERNMENT made a GM PRODUCE fresh attempt to reassure the BY PAUL WAUGH public about genetically modified foods yesterday by declaring that consumer safety was its

Jeff Rooker, the Food minister, promised MPs that such foods would be clearly labelled with no "free-for-all" on the release of modified crops into the

Answering an emergency question, Mr Rooker stressed that products such as tomato paste and soya were put on the market only after "careful scrutiny" of their health impact.

He said that much current public concern could have been avoided if the last government had forced American manufacturers to segregate GM from noo-GM ingredients. He said that the Tories "missed the boat" by failing to secure agreement with the European Unioo to insist that the products were

separated and labelled. British retailers claim that they cannot identify modified soya products hecause supplies from the US use a mixture of GM and noo-GM sources.

Political Correspondent

To the cheers of Labour backbenchers, Mr Rooker also revealed that GM-based tomato paste was approved by the Tories for sale in 1994, soya in 1995 and maize in 1996 and 1997.

The Government had opened up to public scrutiny the activities of its advisory panels on GM issues and was pressing the European Commission to label animal feeds as quickly as

We believe we have a robust system for ensuring that the consumer is fully protected. Above all it is the Government's first priority to ensure that the safety of consumers is fully protected," Mr Rooker said. He condemned recent press "scare stories" about the issue and claimed that biotechnology development had "huge potential" to benefit society.

However, the Tory agriculture spokesman, Tim Yeo, said that public confidence over the issue was being damaged by government "mishandling".

He said the only way to restore public confidence was to recognise the risks and have ministers whose "independence and integrity" could be

relied on. He demanded to know whether Tony Blair had come under pressure from President Bill Clinton to help out Monsanto, the American biotech giant that has led the controversial field, and called for a three-year delay before herbicide tolerant and insect resistant crops were planted on a commercial basis.

"A Government that gets its friends to suppress the publication of inconvenient research findings, accepts sponsorship from companies involved in promoting the commercial growth of GM crops and refuses to publish the advice it receives on this sensitive issue trust," he said

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat food spokesman; called



Hereditary peers deal upsets MPs

doesn't deserve the public's GROWING DISCONTENT was LORDS REFORM apparent among Labour backbeochers yesterday over Government plans to retain nearly for effective labelling, which 100 hereditary peers beyond he said was crucial to allow the stage one of House of Lords republic and British retailers to, form, although Peter Mandelson, the former cabinet

BY SARAH SCHAEFER Political Reporter

minister, insisted that the deal would safeguard other impor-

Andrew Mackinlay, the MP for Thurrock, made clear he posal and said there was "deep concern" whether the "unsatisfactory" transitional stage would endure. "The principle of hereditary peers is alien to us

who are socialist," he said, But Mr Mandelson defended the amendment, to be put forward by Lord Weatherill, the chairman of the crossbenchers, which would allow 91 hereditaries to be elected to the Danegeld" to the Lords to stop Labour backbenchers are there Lords during the transitional stage. He said it would be "an added incentive" for hereditary peers not to disrupt the

Speaking during the resumed committee stage of the House of Lords Bill, which will was "not happy" about the pro- scrap their right to sit and vote, the MP for Hartlepool said the deal would enable the Government's entire legislative programme to proceed "expeditiously."

John McAllion, the Labour MP for Dundee East, said he would vote against such plans if introduced into the Bill in the Lords. The Commons was being asked to pay "a kind of it blocking other Bills, he said. Tooy Benn, the MP for Chesterfield, has already warned that the Government could face a backbench revolt if it accepts the proposed compromise because it would

breach the party's manifesto

commitment to abolish hereditaries' voting rights. Dr Liam Fox, the Tory constitutional spokesman, said the Commons was being "treated with cootempt" by a Government that expected Labour MPs to oppose the amendment if put forward in the Commons but vote for it when the Bill

comes back from the Lords.

"We have a eutquch parliament.

merely for the convenience of the executive. Members allowing themselves to be patsies of the executive is a deeply dispir-Margaret Beckett, the Com-

mons leader, ruled out accepting the compromise move in the Commons because, if the Bill is blocked in the Lords, ministers Parliament Act to force it onto the Statute Book without the Weatherill amendment.

Mr Benn said: "If this goes through, the first example of the modernisation for the millennium is the Prime Minister making 91 hereditary peers

Cook warns of **Poll highlights** Kosovo failure

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Sec- PEACE TALKS retary, will return to the Kosovo peace talks at Rambouillet after warning the Commons that the negotiations could end

Mr Cook will meet his rench counterpart, Hubert Vedrine, to review progress and try to push the Serbs and ethnic Albanians towards a settlement to stop the fighting. However, speaking in the Com- . pendence. mons yesterday, Mr Cook warned that a successful outcome was far from assured.

In my statement to the House two weeks ago, I warned that I could not guarantee that the talks would necessarily end in agreement. That remains the case today," he said.

The international powers have set a deadline of noon on Saturday for a deal at the peace conference in the 14th-century set sail.

BY BOB ROBERTS

chateau outside Paris. Serb negotiators appear to have backed down on the key demand to allow the ethnic Albanians wide-ranging self-rule. The Kosovo Albanians also

seem ready to sign a three-year interim agreement and tone down their demands for inde-However the sticking point is whether the Serbs will agree to a Nato-led force coming into

Kosovo to enforce the deal which both the Albanians and the Americans have insisted The talks continued as the

first contingent of British tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery destined for a possible role in a Kosovo peacekeeping force **Tory Euro split** A BREAKAWAY pro-European MORI POLL

Tory party would embarrass William Hague by winning widespread support in this summer's European Parliament elections, a new Mori poll has found.

The poll, commissioned by two former Conservative MEPs, showed 11 per cent of the public would vote for a party that strongly backed a single European currency at the elections in June.

Mori found that support for the official Conservative Party would also be cut from 26 per cent to just 20 per cent, leaving it with no more seats than in 1994, when Labour swept to vic-

tory across the country. By contrast, the party list system means that the pro-Europeans could win up to half a dozen seats. If Kenneth Clarke was their leader, their

BY PAUL WAUGH

vote would rise to 19 per cent, the survey found.

The research was commissioned by the Pro-Euro Conservative Party, a group set up by the former Tory MEPs Brendan Donnelly and John Stevens after they resigned from the party over its hardline stance on the euro. They said William Hague could not survive such

A spokesman for Conservative Central Office said: "This is just sour grapes from the sour grapes party. These two guys have no credibility because they couldn't get through the democratic selection process of the party." Other polls showed that the majority

backed the Tory stance to see how the euro worked first.

Reform setback for legal aid

GOVERNMENT measures to overhaul the Legal Aid system suffered another setback when peers voted 189 to 134 to prevent the proposed Criminal Defence Service (CDS) from employing lawyers. Under the Access to Justice Bill, the Legal Aid Board will be replaced by a new government-run CDS, which will give contracts to lawyers for publicly funded criminal cases. But Lord Thomas of Gresford, the deputy High Court judge and Liberal Democrat peer argued that there was no need for the change.

THE HOUSE



Today's agenda Lords 2.30pm

■ Debate on closure of Severn Tunnel in summer ■ Debate on separation of powers in the Lords between judiciary and legislative and executive branches of Government ■ Debate on replies to correspondence by ministers and officials

Deaths from toxic fumes

ABOUT 30 people a year die from carboo-monoxide poisoning and one-third of the deaths are believed to have taken place in rented accommodation, the Housing minister Nick Raynsford said.

Official trips

TRAVEL COSTS of Michael Meacher, the Environment minister and an accompanying civil servant were £8,709 when they took business class flights to New Zealand to discuss possible environmental damage to the Antarctic last month. The Deputy Prime

QUESTIONS AND

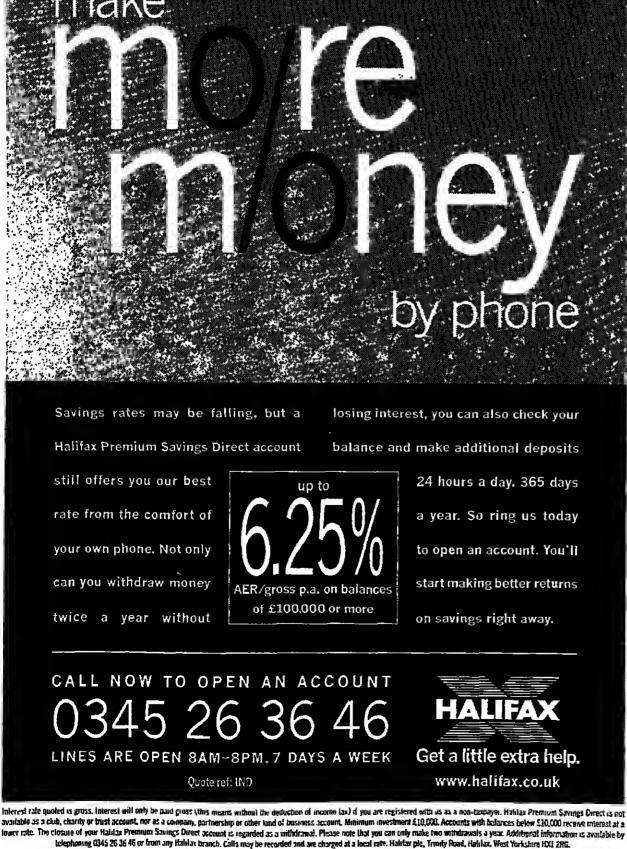
ANSWERS

Minister, John Prescott. confirmed he had taken RAF plane and helicopter flights six times since Labour took power in May

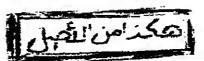
Parliament date

THE SCOTTISH Parliament, the first corth of the border. in nearly 300 years, will meet on Wednesday 12 May at its temporary building on the Mound, Edinburgh, the Government

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Hilary Jolly, the winner of the millennium hymn competition, at St Paul's Cathedral yesterday

Millennium prize winner derides 'sickening hype'

THE HYMN FOR 2000

seasons

heavens.

coming

ORGANISERS OF the St Paul's BY CLARE GARNER Cathedral hymn for the millennium competition were probably thrilled when they heard their winner was the aptly named Hilary Jolly. Yesterday, at the prize-giving, their joy must have seemed a little premature as she lambasted all aspects of the celebrations.

Given the choice, Mrs Jolly. 52, would have ignored the arrival of the year 2000. She was "sickened by millermium hype", which she described as "pagan

and most unpleasant". Her parish priest persuaded her to compose a hymn for the millennium. "As he put it, "If the millennium is going to be celebrated, we should claim it for Jesus Christ'," she said, adding: "And that's about as positive as I can feel about the millennium. quite frankly."

Speaking in St Faith's Chapel, in the crypt of St Paul's, Mrs Jolly, from Cambridge, elaborated on what she meant by pagan hype. "Dare I say it the Dome, and a lot of other

Religious Affairs Correspondent

things besides." At this point the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Rev John Moses, was concerned that what was supposed to be a happy occasion was taking a bitter turn. "In this cathe-

First and last verses of the

winning hymn, "Through the Darkness of the Ages".

oges, Through the sorrows of the

Lifting hearts in hope and

Presence to alloy all fears,

Jesus, you have kept your

Light in darkness, joy in

Words by Hilary Jolly.

Music by Paul Bryan.

Strength of weary

generations.

SOFFOW.

dome she means," he said, trying to leaven the mood.

But Mrs Jolly had the bit between her teeth. The other Dome, the lesser Dome," she railed. "I think it's a temple to Man ... I particularly dislike the fact that it seems to have as the

Foithful through two thousand years.

Moster, we shall sing your

For the measured morch of

When, as lightning leops the

proises, Man of sorrows, God of

Sholl of lost bring in the

You have promised, "I om

Swiftly, our Lord Jesus.

You return to lead us

dral, let's be quite clear what centre-piece a giant human figure. The millennium is not about Man, it's about God."

Mrs Jolly's hymn, chosen from 444 entries, is set to music by Paul Bryan, director of music at St John's College School, Cambridge, His entry beat 309 other tunes.

Mrs Jolly, who has two children, heard the combination of words and music for the first time yesterday. She was thrilled. "I was expecting, in rather a cynical way, something much more upbeat. I'm happy, because it's dignified."

The hymn will be sung at the national millennium service at St Paul's on 2 January 2000 and in churches across the country throughout next year. The organisers of the competition hope it will find its way into

mainstream hymn books. Asked if she had plans for New Year's Eve 1999, Mrs Jolly said: "I will go to bed, as I always do, at about 8.30pm and get up, as I always do, at about

Pill scare drives abortions to record

A LONG-TERM crisis of confi- By LOUISE JURY dence in oral contraception, sparked by the Pill scare three years ago, has led to the highest level yet of legal abortions in the UK, according to new government statistics.

age, compared with 12 per 1.000 just before the October 1995 Pill scare. The rate was 8 per 1.000 in 1971. Abortions were decriminalised in 1968.

There was national concern when seven of the most popular, newer brands of the Pill were found to be twice as likely to cause dangerous blood clots as older, cheaper brands. Users were advised to switch brands, hut many immediately stopped using contraception, resulting in a rash of unplanned pregnancies and terminations.

Latest government statistics suggest the problem has not gone away, with a 4 percent increase in abortions in the last three months of 1998 compared with the same period the year before. The increase has been across all age groups. Karen Dunnell, editor of the

Office for National Statistics (ONS) bulletins, said yesterday: "There is a general feeling, perhaps, that the Pill scare caused a crisis of confidence in methods of contraception. It may be why slightly larger numbers of women are deciding to use abortion."

Analysis published yesterday also revealed a mortality crisis for the thirty-something generation. Although the death rate has been decreasing for generations, it has stopped falling for people in their twenties and thirties. For some people in England and Wales.

groups of men, death rates were higher in 1994-96 than they were 10 years ago. Drug and alcohol dependence has led to a higher incidence of mental In 1998, abortions reached 14 disorders, the researchers said. er 1,000 women of childbearing The problem is compounded by deaths from Aids and high suicide rates. One in four deaths among men in their twenties is a suicide.

For women, breast and cervical cancer deaths are decreasing. But deaths from digestive problems - particularly due to alcohol - are hitting women in their early thirties. Mortality rates have improved least among women aged 30-34.

Statistics also showed that GPs had heeded advice from the British Thoracic Society on treating asthma with inhaled steroids rather than drugs that tackle the symptoms

Dr Seeromanie Harding reported a range of statistics proving you are more likely to die vounger if vou are unemployed or poor. People who experienced more than one period of unemployment had higher death rates than those who remained employed. People raised in children's homes and men placed in detention or psychiatric centres had a considerably higher risk of illhealth and premature death.

The ONS has previously published evidence of the high mortality rates of Irish migrants in England and Wales. New figures confirm a mortality rate, even among secondgeneration Irish migrants, 20 per cent higher than of all other

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Plane nearly hit city's radio mast

AN AIRCRAFT carrying 48 pas- By Phillip Thornton sengers came close to a transmitter mast in a heavily populated part of a city centre School were rustled in the airafter it flew wildly off course, according in a report published yesterday.

The Brymon Airways Dash-8 plane flew near the radio mast in the Northfield area of Aberdeen as it was coming in to land on 29 September last

The report into the incident, by the Air Accident Investigations Branch, found the plane was only 27 metres from the mast vertically hut 650 metres

away laterally. According to witness reports, the plane also came close to hitting Stockethill Court, a 15storey tower block. The approach was so low that leaves of the trees in the playground of nearby Cornhill Primary

Parliantent dit

Transport Correspondent

craft's slipstream. The AAIB report found that the 51-year-old pilot made a series of errors. The course he set for landing was 90 degrees off what it should have been, it said.

He had to abandon his first attempt at landing and as he attempted a "go around" to land again, he got his height/speed ratio muddled before the plane levelled at the height agreed with air traffic controllers and landed safely.

The report said the captain. who has since resigned, intended to attempt a manual approach, but re-engaged the autopilot during the first descent. He ended up well away from where he should have been, but was unaware why

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'Bawdy' police are cleared in air rage case

TWO POLICE officers and their BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH friend were acquitted yesterday of being drunk on an aircraft after they denied gyrating to the film The Full Monty and misbehaving on a flight from Florida to Manchester. But the judge said they had clearly been bawdy and disruptive.

Inspector David Gareth Perrett, his son, PC Richard Perrett and Peter Beck, a publican, were returning to Manchester from a golfing holiday in Orlando, where they enjoyed a "fabulous time".

They denied drunkenness on an aircraft, using foul language and dancing to the inflight film during the sevenand-a-half-hour trip. But Mr Justice Ensor said the jury had been merciful and the defendants' conduct was clearly unworthy of the position they held as police officers.

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He refused to award them costs, adding: "You were not guilty of a criminal offence but it was clear your behaviour was objectionable. There was clear evidence from five passengers, supported by four members of the cabin crew, that you were behaving in a loud and bawdy manner and that you spoilt the flight for a number of

He said Mr Beck, 56, should his position as a licensee. Insp



Richard Perrett: Cleared

Perrett, 49, and his 26-year-old son, both with the West Yorkshire Police, were said to have insulted and mocked two elderly lady passengers for refusing to watch the film about male strippers.

Helen Bartlett, 78, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, said: "They called us 'dykes' and that upset me greatly because my husband had not been dead very long _ When the film came on I was not interested in it, but they were laughing uproariously and they started to get personal."

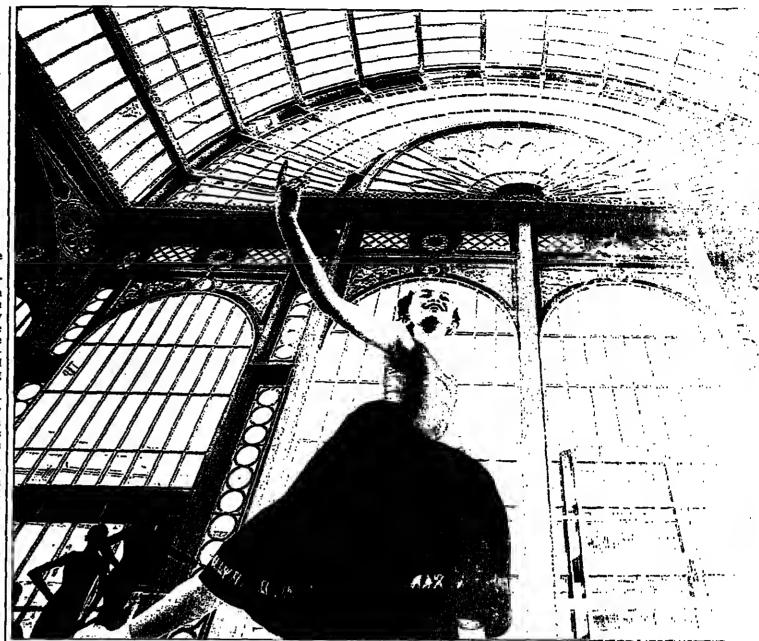
Betty Bailey, 71, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, said the defendants had started drinking have known better because of before the aircraft took off. "They were bragging and showing off ... I think they were all trying to intimidate us."

Insp Perrett, a policeman for 28 years, claimed the women had misheard a conversation about motorbikes. "The only thing I can assume is that we were talking about bikes," he said. "They must have misheard or misinterpreted it. I had not intentionally said anything

Ian Metcalfe, for the prosecution, said a passenger saw Richard Perrett handing out a litre bottle of gin among his group after their in-flight drinks had been served. The men refused to surrender their passports to a stewardess when she asked them, and quietened only after the pilot had spoken

Later a senior West Yorkshire officer said internal disciplinary action against the two officers, which had been suspended during the trial, was

Lee Thresher, 29, an electrician, admitted endangering a BA flight by smashing a window after drinking three double whiskies and taking a Valium. Uxbridge magistrates were told Thresher, of Hullbridge, Essex, also attacked two passengers on the plane from Heathrow to Bangkok. He will be sentenced at Isleworth Crown Court on 31



Children from the Royal Ballet's Chance to Dance programme at the topping-out celebrations at Covera Garden

'Elite' Garden goes all democration

exciting: none of these adjectives could have been used about the Royal Opera House over the past five years.

But yesterday the £216m redevelopment in Covent Garden. central London, was unveiled for its topping-out ceremony. It proved a transformation of the House, not just in terms of architecture and public image. The renovation of the original 1858 building by the architect Jeremy Dixon includes new and performance studios and a public-rooftop terrace with

views over London. Most impressive of all is the

ACCESSIBLE, INSPIRING and BY DAVID LISTER Arts News Editor

> restoration of the main part of the 19th-century Floral Hall, the roof of which was destroyed by fire in the 1950s, and which was recently used as a scenery store. Yesterday it was clear how this will become a vast and striking main foyer, open to the public during the day, and with a large glass frontage on to the street.

What underlies all the artion that access and anti-élitism must speak through the shape of the building as well as

there are studio theatres that will give lunchtime perfor- Floral Hall - has been restored mances, free at least once a week, hetter sightlines and leg-room in the newly airconditioned main auditorium and better access for people

mingle in the same spaces. And there will be a pedes-Covent Garden plazza, which huilding, almost by stealth.

The building itself, in stone and glass, anchored in a granite plinth, demonstrates the

through ticket prices. And so skilful way in which a Victorian cast-iron glasshouse - the and sandwiched delicately between the familiar stone portico and a new narrow glass tower that houses the elevator:

At vesterday's ceremony

Chris Smith, the Secretary of with disabilities. Everyone will enter through the same en-State for Culture, Media and Sport, said: "This is a wondertrance for the first time and ful day. It marks an end of the doom and gloom. More people trian link from Bow Street to the will be able to come and enjoy excellent work than has ever been the case before.

the Covent Garden theatre has been one of the conditions for in this country when the

latting e-part course . . . to arrogance and click to Criticism in high to a MPs, the Arts Courses of the con-

Government was to the rebecause of the Car. (2.17) Lottery graph now to 32 to 5 development schoole and to cause of the 212m $\sigma + \epsilon \pi^{-0.5}$ resident Royal Bull Control of the Орега сопфавил теслен : Yesterday vir codia con-

gate, v ho took of an order a man when the old have continued Arts Council sup- a lettery ticket.

Hotel guests wreak havoc

HOTEL BOSSES and police are By PAUL HUNTER tackling a growing problem in the accommodation industry hotel rage. Staff have fallen victims to attacks ranging from verbal abuse to physical assault, said Strathclyde Police.

lice spokesman said: "Glasgow's growing reputation as a

crease in the number of hotels. Unfortunately this has also brought an increase in volatile behaviour. Staff can face various forms of violence and we The force is hosting a sem- want to make sure they have inar to advise hoteliers how to the best training so they can

Bill Fox whose company, Maybo, specialises in the mansonal safety advice, said the

difficulties experienced by hotel staff were no different to those experienced in other jobs. "This problem goes right

across the board. There is increasing awareness and concern about violence in the workplace everywhere and the issue has a very high profile."

Glasgow City Centre Hotel Watch, said: "Anything that can help staff deal with difficult sit-



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Asterix routs rivals at box office

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY resisting the Romans for 40 years, Astérix the Gaul and his monumental sidekick, Obélix, have defied all the odds – and the treachery of the French movie critics - to defeat the massed legions of Hollywood.

Despite a series of stinking reviews in the French press, the first Asterix movie with live actors, including Gerard Depardieu as Obelix, has had a triumphant first two weeks at the box office. In its first week, the movie, Astérix et Obelix Contre Cesar, broke the French attendance record. with 2,718,443 tickets soid. By the end of its second week it had reached 4.3 million, well on the way to the 10 million target set by its producer.

The feisty little cartoon book Celt and his dim friend are fighting a rearguard action in defence of French - and European - cinematic culture, almost as desperate as the Gaulish resistance to the Romans 2,000 years ago. At £27m, the movie is the most expensive made in France. It carries the hopes of the entire French cinema sector, the only fully functioning such industry still surviving in Europe.

Attendance at French films in France fell helow 30 per cent of the total audience for the first time last year, largely because of the success of the Hollywood hlockbuster Titanic and several American full-

The French industry was counting on the Asterix movie to reverse this trend and to prove that it was not doomed to become a hit player even in its domestic cinemas.



Christian Clavier and Gérard Depardieu are defeating all-comers with the film of Astérix and Obélix

French, German and Belgian money, with French, German and Italian actors, was viciously received by the French movie critics. They said it was clumsy, too dependent on care. Hollywood-style, computer-

unkindest cut of all, not very rette) said, the cerebral, slowfunny. Most adults who have moving, seen the movie tend to agree. movies praised by French crit-Children and adolescents, the main target audiences, do not

As the movie's producer, generated special effects and, Claude Berri (Jean de Flo-

ics tend to vanish at the box office, even in France.He said good sign. And so it proved. Astérix et Obélix Contre

César now benefits from the sensitively-acted French school holidays, and should flourish for at least two more weeks. It has beaten main chief rival for the chilthe panning of Astérix was a dren's audience, the Disneydistributed A Bug's Life, into a poor second place.

Uproar over 'lazy' judge in Aids trial

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

THE HIGH-PROFILE trial of a ormer prime minister and two ex-ministers for failing to prevent Aids from being passed on by French blood banks is threatening to subside into chaos and farce.

The week-old trial has turned into a media witch-hunt, not gainst the accused but against the presiding judge. He has been accused by all sides of incompetence, laziness, arrogance, bad manners, laxity towards the accused, making jokes in bad taste and using language more usually associated with the far right.

The president of the court, Christian Le Gunehec, 68, a former appeal judge who has never presided over a trial before, has hinted that he might stand down if the complaints continue. He attributes his difficulties not to his own failings but to the feverish media expectations of the trial, the first of its kind before a new, partpolitical, part-judicial court,

This trial is in public. But it is not made for the public," he said at one stage – a remark that was taken as further evidence of his arrogance. Doubts about Mr Le Gunehec's command of the detail of the proceedings were compounded by a question he whispered to a fellow judge, while forgetting to turn off his microphone: "Remind me, who is Garretta?"

Dr Michel Garretta is the man at the centre of the whole affair: the former head of the French state blood service, who has already served a prison sentence for allowing plasma contaminated with Aids to be given to haemophiliacs.

On another occasion, the



judge used the word "Sidaique" for "Aids victim" (after the French acronym Sida). This is a dismissive and insulting word used only by the far-right National Front. The next day he made a doubtful joke about heroin addicts and Haitian homosexuals but most damningly of all, according to lawyers for the victims, Mr Le Gunehec has given an easy ride to the three accused, and especially to the former Socialist prime min-

ister, Laurent Fabius. Mr Fabius and two of his former colleagues are accused of manslaughter. It is alleged they delayed the systematic testing of donors' hlood for five critical months in 1985 to allow a French firm to complete its development of testing equipment. An alternative was already available from the United States.

In a two-hour rebuttal of the accusations last week, Mr Fablus denied he was even aware of these commercial considerations. He said he had done all he could to hring for-

Firms to pay Nazi-era slaves

ward the testing of donor blood and save lives. He gave a convincing performance but critics pointed out be was given a free run. The president of the court. the only person able to do so. did not interrupt him once to ask a question or challenge his assertions.

ll cou

Part of Mr Le Gunehec's problem is that there is noprecedent in France for a trial: of this kind. It is being heard by a new court - the "Cour de Justice de la République", in which erring ministers are tried by a panel of three judges and 12 fellow politicians. The criticism of Mr Le Gunehec has come partly from the media and partly from victims and their families. But it has been fed, anonymously, by the politicianjudges sitting alongside him.

Relations between the court president and the politicianjudges came to a head at the end of last week at a private meeting, in which the MPs strongly advised Mr Le Gunehec to spend the weekend

Jury visits death path

t convened in the village of Domachevo in western Belarus yesterday, with judge and jury visiting the site in a forest where Anthony Sawoniuk allegedly slaughtered Jews in the Second

The 77-year-old, who now lives in south London, denies killing two men and two women in Domachevo between September and December 1942.

in Domachevo

The case is the first war crimes trial in British history and the first time that a British court has convened on foreign soil. Judge Humphrey Potts and 12 jurors arrived in Belarus on Monday.

Yesterday they began to relive the borror that was visited on Domachevo after Ger-

nan torces occur the Soviet Union.

Led by Belarussian prose cutors, the court walked down the "path of death", the ronte from the Jewish ghetto to a nearby forest, where 3,800 Jews were killed and dumped in mass graves. Nearby was the site where Sawoniuk ailegedly slew his four victims, after they escaped one of the massacres.



Sawoniuk: Denies crimes of the fund, called a joint decla-

ACCEPTING "MORAL responsibility" for the Holocaust, top German companies are to set up an industry fund to compensate former slave workers and other Nazi-era victims.

The companies promised to launch the fund by 1 September, but did not say how much industry will pay into it.

The chairman of Deutsche

ration establishing the fund by 12 German companies and the government a "milestone". Chancellor Gerhard Schrö-

der said: "This paper shows that German business can deal responsibly with its history."

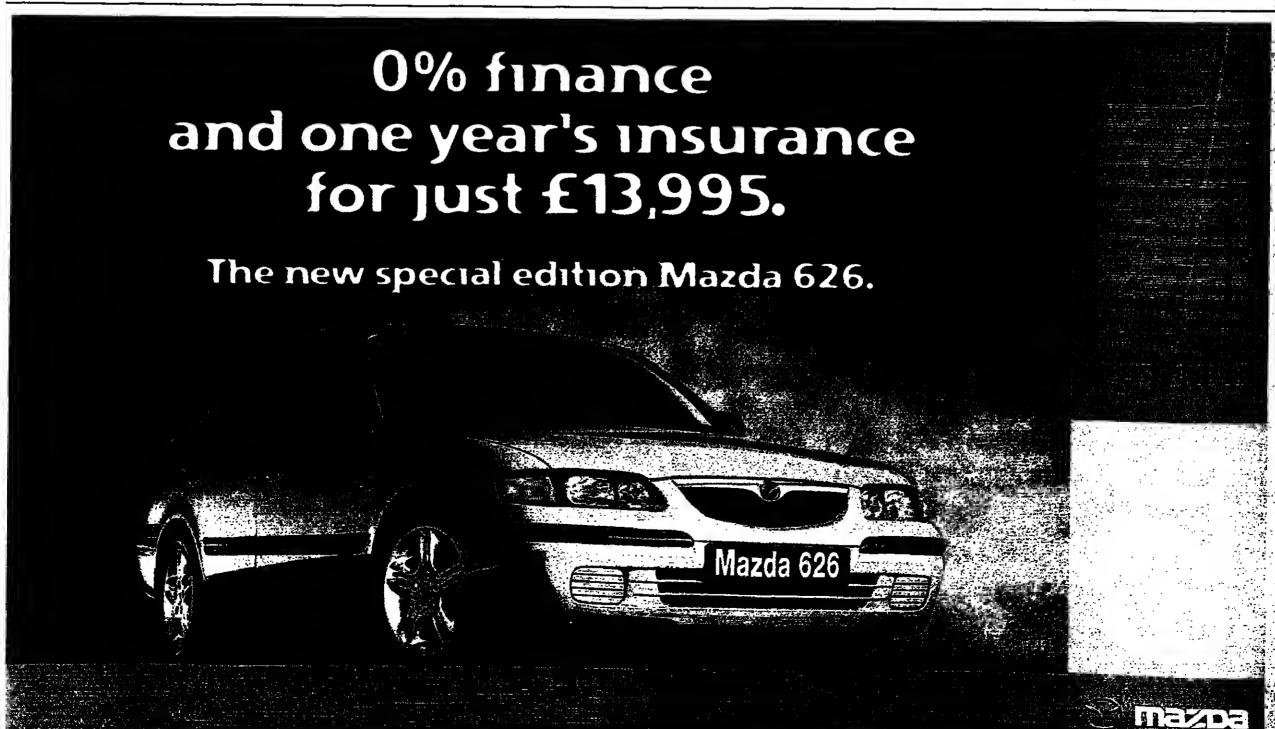
The pledge was German industry's first formal step Bank, Rolf Breuer, an architect toward creating the compensation fund, a response to law-

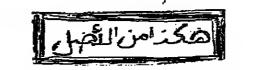
nies in the United States by former slave workers.

Mr Schröder's chief of staff. Bodo Homboch, said 200,000 to 300,000 former slave labourers would be eligible for payments.

Those firms setting up the foundation for "remembrance, responsibility and the future" include car makers Volkswagen, DaimlerChrysler and BMW, chemical and pharmaceutical companies Baver. Hoechst and BASF, Deutsche and Dresdner banks, the industrial firms Siemens, and

A US lawyer pressing victims' claims, Ed Fagan, called: the announcement "a step in the right direction" but said the small number of companies backing the effort was not yet enough. At least 263 firms used





over dge trial

THE INDIFFENDING



a slaves

Lottery Scandal

It could be you

he lottery begins at birth.

The odds are, one in three babies will

be born into poverty.

This is not the developing world we're talking about. This is here, now, in Britain.

The downward spiral that leaves thousands of children excluded from society is random, relentless and no fault of their own.

Where you happen to be bom can have a profound effect on the rest of your life.

The highest concentration of disadvantaged children can be found in only 59 local authority districts in the country. They may be no-go areas to some, but they can be no-exit areas for the young people who have to grow up there.

How can we gamble with the future of children this way?

With 3.3 million existing in families with less than half the average national income, children are now the largest group caught in the poverty trap.

So where does the buck stop?

With government? Or with each and every one of us?

The Children's Society believes we all have a responsibility to the next generation.

And with your help, we can do something to redress the balance between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'.

When the disadvantaged become the disappeared

Every year thousands of children fall through the net.

In the local areas, where these children are concentrated, more than 25% of them will begin life as underweight babies, they have a 30% higher mortality rate and they are twice as likely to die in childhood accidents.

These same children are disadvantaged in education. They can become disruptive in class. Unable to cope, schools exclude them in their thousands 150,000 exclusions in e single year. The majority are children from poorer homes.

Without a decent start in life, many young people never catch up.

Truancy in these deprived districts is currently running et four times the national average.

While one in four pupils at secondary schools near rundown housing estates, leave at sixteen without a single GCSE, five times the national average.

The vast majority of underage pregnancies can be traced back to the same areas.

4,700 girls of echool age fell pregnant in 1998 - more than any other country in Europe.

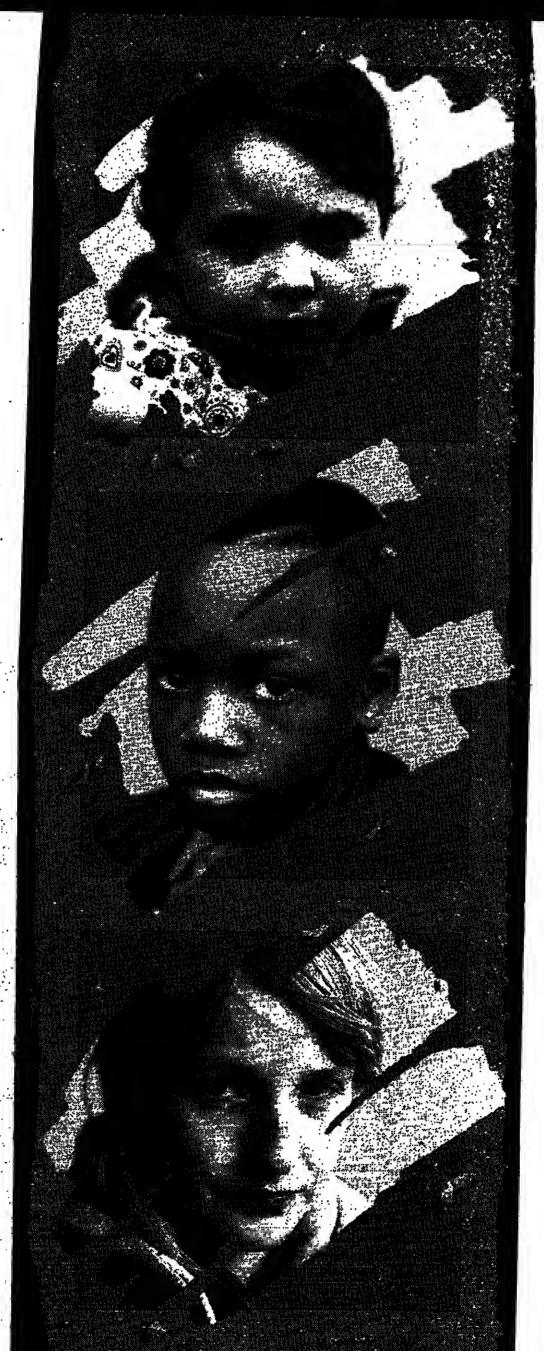
Uneducated, unhappy young people will buck the system when they feel abandoned by it.

Many turn to crime. And pay the price.

Britain locked up 11,000 teenagers in1998. That's a 40% increase in just five years – a depressing European record.

A staggering 43,000 children run away each year.

Life on the streets can be desperate and dangerous, with the real risk of being caught up with druge and prostitution, simply to survive.



Beating the odds

Many of the problems children face are complex and interlinked.

The way we see it, they demand an holistic approach.

There is no quick fix. But there is progress to be proud of. Last year The Children's Society helped nearly 40,000 children, directly.

We are the only national charity working with youngsters on remand in prison.

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We were the first to open a refuge for those at risk on the streets, the first to develop programmes in primary schools to proactively prevent exclusions and the first to introduce family centres.

Whilst our resources are modest, the impact we make on children's lives is not.

Helping them realise their full potential, enables them to act as catalysts for change within their own neighbourhood.

The Children's Society is their advocate, advisor, friend.

44 When Mum left we stayed with Dad. He couldn't get work so they took our home. Social Services put us in one of them hed and breakfast places. Dad and my brother were upstairs, I was on another floor. It was horrible. The guy in the next room started touching me. One night he tried to rape me. They were going to put me and my brother in care. It was the people at The Children's Society that stopped it. They talked to me lots about what happened. And they helped us get a flat. Life savers, that's what Dad calls them. 77

Karen aged 14

As a Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales, we reach out unconditionally to children when they are at their most vulnerable.

And they are nearer than you think.

The vast majority of you live within a short car ride of real poverty. To see exactly how close you are to the most deprived areas in England, Scotland and Wales, you can phone for our Lottery Scandal Map.

Being born in the wrong place can extinguish every opportunity a child might have in life.

Which is why your support is invaluable. By helping to fund our work, you will be helping those children who have never had a decent chance.

It shouldn't be a lottery.

Help us put it right.

Please call now for your free copy of our Lottery Scandal Map or to make a donation. Thank you.

0845 600 4400



The Children's Society

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Charity Registration No. 221124

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rock

Bombs

UN plea over Indian burnings

AMID A darkening catiocal BY PETER POPHAM mood of gloom and apprehenin Delhi sion after the hurning to death of an Australian missionary and his children three weeks ago, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, met the Indian Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, yesterday and voiced the international community's dismay about this and other anti-Christian attacks.

Mrs Robinson's trip to India to take part in a regional human rights workshop was planned mooths ago, but it assumed new significance after the murder of Graham Staines and his sons Philip, 10, and Timothy, 8, in a remote village in Orissa, eastern India, on 23 January.

The Australian, who had spent more than 20 years working in leprosy hospitals in Orissa, was barricaded into his jeep with his sons by a chanting mob in the middle of the night. and the vehicle set alight.

No one has been charged with the murders but police suspicion settled on a Hindu nationalist fanatic called Dara Singh, who was linked to a series of attacks on Muslims.

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition government threw itself into damage limitation, dispatching a ministerial team to the site of the murders.d It reported that organisations with links to the government were not involved. The report was met with scepticism because, whoever the true culprits, the horrifying crime took place in an atmosphere of anti-Christian hysteria deliberately whipped up happen in India all the time;

by the BJP's Hindu nationalist allies. In the past, organisations such as the Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Shiv Sena have attacked India's biggest minority, the Muslims. The destruction of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya and the communal massacres that followed are blamed squarely on the storm troops of Hindu nationalism

Until last year Christians had never felt the brunt of such attacks. All that has changed. Since the election of the present government 11 months ago, India's Christians have faced an unprecedented onslaught, with dozens of churches destroyed or damaged. The murders in Orissa appeared to be the climax of an orchestrated campaign. As Mrs Robinson told the BBC on Monday, the attacks "have damaged India's reputation in the world for religious tolerance" and as religious tolerance was a key issue of human rights, it was an issue she felt should be raised with the government.

The Orissa murders have proved to be a watershed in the government's relations with the intellectual community, prompting a spate of gloomily reflective articles on the state of the nation. Even cheerleaders of Hindu nationalism such as The Pioneer newspaper have joined in the breast-beating and hand-wringing. But horrifying though the killings were, there is something artificial and unreal about the strength of the reaction to them. Terrible things



The UN Human Rights commissioner, Mary Robinson (left) with Sonia Gandhi, president of the Congress Party

Orissa murders was the story of an unattended newborn baby dragged from a hospital by a dog and destroyed in the street.

sharing the front page with the nationalists are in power, a census of Christians is being carried out, which has raised the community's anxieties. Elsewhere the VHP has launched a campaign to "welcome back" to Hin-Despite the condemnations. attacks on Christians have conduism tribal people formerly converted to Christianity. tinued. In Gujarat, where Hindu

lieve in the tolerant character of Hinduism may be baffled. Its true goal is almost certainly to marginalise Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born president of the Congress Party, stigmatising her as a member of an alien mi-

Anyone brought up to be-nority that is also weak. Hindu zealots have accused her of causing her late husband, former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, to be converted to Catholicism.

But it is the poor and defenceless whose lives are being thrown into turmoil by the per-

secution. And it is India's reputation as, in Mary Robinson's words yesterday, "a country ... which from the very outset of the United Nations has championed the cause of freedom and human rights" which is being damaged perhaps beyond repair.

Cresson dossiers sent to police

EDITH CRESSON, the belea- By STEPHEN CASTLE guered European commissiooer, suffered a serious blow yesterday when four dossiers detailing suspected fraud in one of her multi-million pound EU speading programmes were sent to Belgian police.

The move is an embarrassment to Ms Cresson, who had insisted that any problems within the Leonardo programme administration of which had been contracted to a company called Agenor – were im

mismanagement. The dews comes at the worst possible time for the former French prime minister, who is battling to save her job as commissioner with responsibility for science, research. youth and education. She has heen the prime target for critics of mismanagement and nepotism in Brussels, after revelations that she employed

in Brussels

The development increases the pressure for Ms Cresson's resignation, less than a month before a committee of experts is due to deliver an interim report on the European Parliament.

the parliament's third largest group, the Liberal Democrats, said the revelations were significant and left Ms Cressor

nounced that it had terminated the contract of Agenor. The Belgian-based private company earned a £70,000 annual management fee for administering Leonardo, a youth exchange and training project with a £400m-plus hudget.

as a scientific adviser on Aids

Last night Pat Cox, leader of "potentially in the line of fire".

The Commission also an-

The allegations relate to overcharging and false invoicing by Agenor staff.

Uzbek capital BY PHIL REEVES in Moscow THE CENTRAL Asian nation of Uzbekistan was reeling yesterday after its rigidly policed peace was shattered by six almost simultaneous homb hlasts in the capital, Tashkent,

which killed nine people. The president of the former Soviet republic, the autocratic Islam Karimov, a one-time Communist party boss, said the explosions were an attempt

One blast was inside government headquarters where Mr Karimov was to address the cabinet yesterday morning.

A policemen said he heard

gunfire and grenade concussions as the president's car approached the cabinet building. The city centre was sealed off by armed police and troops and Russian television showed several wrecked vehicles next to deep craters, and tall build ings with shattered windows.

Shortly after the bombs - a rare outbreak of political violence in this country of 22 milliog - President Karimov, 61, said on state television the attackers aimed to "sow fear and panic in the civil population"

The president, nicknamed Papa" by his subjects, has not shortage of enemies. Aided by his ruthless security forces, he has crushed almost all opposition in the last seven years.

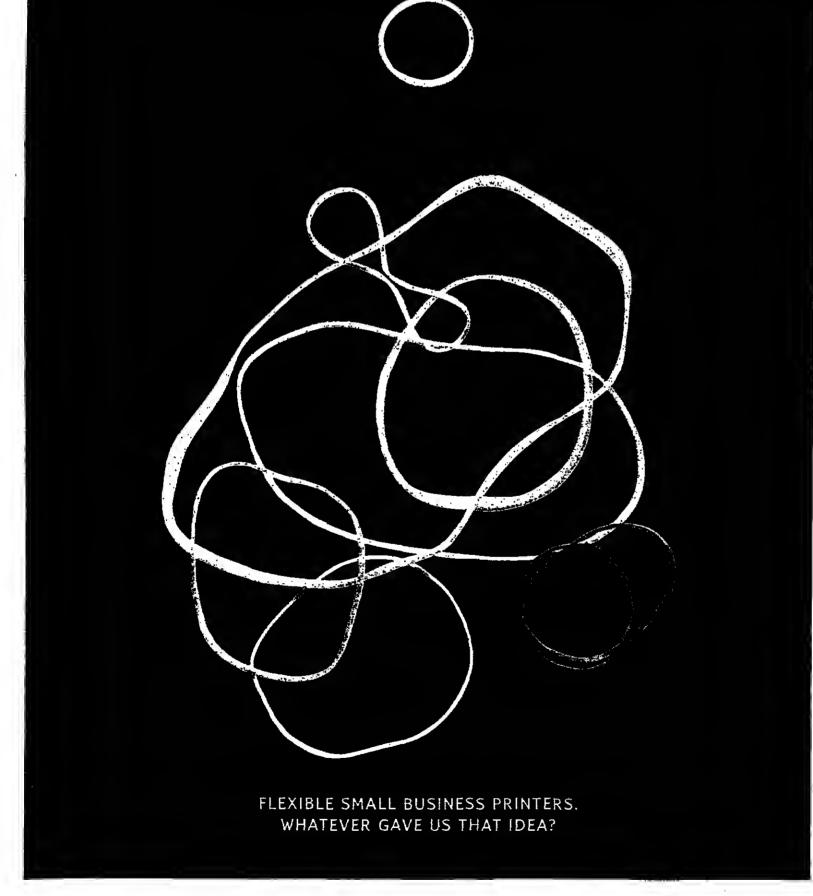
He was first elected in 1991 in a poll widely seen as suspect and he extended his term in office by a referendum in 1995.

Two suspects were held at Tashkent airport in the afternoon, said Russian commentators. Speculation is likely to focus on an Islamic connection. Secular Uzbekistan has long feared the rise of Islamid fundamentalism, imported from neighbouring Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, ignited by the religious freedom and diresocial conditions resulting from Soviet collapse. Tensions have also sharply

increased with next-door Tajikistan, which has accused Tashkent of fuelling its civil war by helping the antigovernment forces.

And Uzbekistan. what it saw as domineering Russian tactics, recently announced its withdrawal from a security co-operation treaty between the 12-member Commogwealth of Independent

Yesterday, the Kremlin moved quickly to condemn the attack, issuing a statement from President Boris Yeltsin. who called it a "cynical terror-





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Clinton foes hit by trial backlash

DESPERATE TO boost its image and electoral prospects for 2000 after President Bill Clinton's acquittal, the Republican Party has launched a nationwide effort to "reconnect" with its grassroots through more than 100 town hall-style meetings across the country.

How difficult that reconnection effort will be was illustrated yesterday in Washington, where leaders of three minority constituencies lambasted the Congressional party for giving succour to the Democrats' presentation of the party as 'extremist".

The three groups - the Log Cabin Republicans, representing the party's gay and lesbian members, the New Majority Committee, promoting the interests of black and Hispanic Republicans, and Republicans for Choice, which combats the party's hardline anti-abortion stance - attacked the Congressional party for perpetuating Republicans as "mean-spirited, intolerant, and agenda-less".

Citing Republican losses at the mid-term Congressional elections last November and the persistence of President Clinton's high poll ratings throughout the impeachment process, they warned that the party risked fulfilling Democrats' accusations of "extremism" unless it became more

Where Republicans had successfully made "liberal" the scold word for the Eighties, they said, Democrats had managed to make "extremist" the scold word for the late Nineties - and make it stick to Republicans. According to Richard Tafel of the Log Cabin Republicans. "the rank and file are so depressed by the state of the

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

party that they might bring back Newt Gingrich". The right-wing populist House Speaker resigned in November after the party's perceived failure at the polls

In their single-minded pur-suit of impeachment, he said, the Republicans had scared the public into thinking it was an "anti-everything party" and laid it open to accusations of hypocrisy. There was Bob Barr, he said - referring to one of the more rabid House prosecutors - who was now introducing "a defence of marriage Act" into Congress, "and he's on his third marriage". Arguing for more inclusive-

Anderson cited the efforts of more centrist state governors, including George W Bush of Texas, who campaigned in Spanish as well as English, and reinforced the Democrats' view that it was the higger than expected hlack turnout in Southern states last November that had helped to remove two apparently safe governors in Alabama and South Carolina. "The party is in trouble," she said, "and needs all the help it can get." Its adverse image among voters through impeachment "has inflicted incredible damage", she added, and borrowed from Bill Clinton the notion that the party should

start to "look like America". For pro-Choice Republicans, Ann Stone said the party's stance on impeachment had sent the message that Republicans "wanted government out content to have it in your



School sweetheart lingers

WHILE THE White House sex scandal has vanished from the Washington map almost as rapidly as it arrived 13 months ago, some of the associated allegations - the use of dirty tricks against troublesome women, for instance - have lingered.

Making a rare appearance in Washington yesterday was Dolly Kyle Browning, Bill Clinton's Arkansas school sweetheart, who claims the Clinton camp sought to "disparage, defame and destroy her reputation" when she tried to publish of the boardroom but were an expose of what she said was a long-term relationship between them.

Ms Kyle Browning, a property lawyer living in Texas, wrote a book, Purposes of the Heart, which recounts a woman's affair with a southern governor. The book, however, found no publisher and she and her husband published It privately last year, complaining that "Clinton, his agents and surrogates" did their utmost to stop it appearing.

watchdog organisation, Judiliminary papers last year and asked to remain within earshot gave Mr Clinton until 27 July to protect himself.

to respond or face civil action.

Mr Clinton and Ms Kyle Browning have given different accounts of a meeting they had in 1994 at their school reunion. She says Mr Clinton apologised to her, suggested she come to Washington and offered to find her a job. Mr Clinton said during his testimony in the Paula Jones case that she acknowledged that the account in her book was untrue, but said she needed the money. His ac-The case was taken up hy a count was corroborated by a member of his staff, Marsha cial Watch, which served pre-' Scott, whom Mr Clinton had

Trapped in the lift with Jimi Hendrix

AMERICAN TIMES WASHINGTON

IT CAME into our building here in Washington a few months ago, and at first I barely noticed it. But it was always there somewhere, floating in the air just out of reach.

It is music. Or rather, it is Muzak, for there is a difference. As well as heing a generic term, it is also a large and thriving company based in Seattle, in the fashionable Pacific North-West of the United States, with revenues of about \$100m. It pumps out its product via satellite feeds to thousands of businesse across America, broadcasting 60 different programmes, of which only one is now classic "background music".

It has its origins way back in the 1920s, when a military officer was trying his hand at the new science of telephony. General George Squiers was a formidable character, who experimented with radio in 1897, only a year after Marconi sent the first wireless message, and was the first passenger in an aircraft when he flew with the Wright brothers. He helped to create two of the most powerful instruments of American global domina-tion: the United States Air Force, and Muzak.

General Squiers formed the name of his company from "music" and the name of his favourite high-technology company, Kodak. It was a roaring success, quickly becoming the soundtrack to the

American century. Whispering strings played cover versions of the Carpenters' "Afternoon Delight" or "A Walk in the Black Forest" as Americans went to the supermarket, the garage, motels, restaurants, fast-food joints or the toilet. It even accompanied Neil Armstrong to the Moon. When the US left Vietnam in 1975, the helicopters clattering away through small arms fire, Muzak played heedlessly on in the lobby of the American embassy while puzzled North Vietnamese soldiers skidded about the marble floor.

Much of it was, by common



consent, terrible; unimaginative, dreary, saccharine-sweet rubbish that grated on the nerves. If that is still your mental image of Muzak, however, it is perhaps time to think again. Two years ago, the company had a small revolution, and it has put the emphasis back on the main

This company was built on believing in the power of music," says Kenny Kahn, the vice-president for marketing, and music is now what it is about. Most of the programmes offered by Muzak these days are what they call "foreground music" - original versions of the songs, not camped-up reproductions. And it is more likely to be Nirvana or Jimi Hendrix, great products of the city of eattle, than "Puff the Magic

Dragon" arranged for strings. The company no longer wishes to think about the bad old days and has become (slightly self-consciously) hip. "Our goal is to say to peo-

ple, 'We are not what you think we are'," says Mr Kahn. It has a whizzo website and lots of new concepts to describe what It does, which sound like the sleeve notes from a techno album. Its technicians are now described as "audio architects". And it has paid off: last week, the company was bought out for more

than \$250m (£150m) by a

Boston-based firm. It will take

a long time before the word loses its associations, but at least people have heard of it. "We have to deal with that." says Mr Kahn. "It's better to

be recognised in some shape or another than not to be recognised at all," he says, paraphrasing Oscar Wilde. Muzak is the the world's largest radio station, sending DJ-free music around the na-

tion by satellite and wire. It is about to start using the Web to sell its wares, taking a logical step on from its earlier use of technology: after all, General Squiers company was originally called "Wired And Muzak is no longer a

term of pure invective, as it was a decade ago. Background music has become deeply fashionable, with the sound repackaged as "ambient", "lounge" or "cocktail".

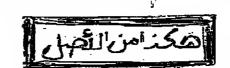
It has not been universally popular in the Independent huilding in Washington. The property company that owns the block told us in its newsletter that everyone loved it, and that feet had been seeo tapping in the corridors. Some, however, were banging their heads on the wall. There were dark plots hatched, whisperings about pliers and wiring systems, Suddenly last week, the seventh floor was silent again. But by Monday, it was back Muzak is, It seems, an unstoppable force.

ANDREW MARSHALL

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BUSINESS

IN THE BUSINESS REVIEW

■ The man who owns cyberspace ■ The superstore that ate America ■ Can DMGT survive the FTSE 100? ■ The adman's adman revealed ■ Investment

Plus: Hamish McRae, Diane Coyle, Derek Pain, Jo Davis, and The Trader

Dollar hits a high against the yen

THE DOLLAR hit a 10-week high against the yen yesterday after the Japanese government changed course on exchange rate and interest rate policy.

Eisuke Sakakibara, a Ministry of Finance official known as Mr Yen because of his influence on the Japanese currency. said he welcomed the recent fall in the yen. His comments, echoed by the governor of the Bank of Japan, sent the dollar through the 118 yen barrier for the first time since December. Moves by Japanese authorities to curb the rise in longterm bond yields helped dollar sentiment. The government said it would increase bond purchases and stem issuances in an attempt to prop up the struggling bond market.

Rolls-Royce wins £150m contract



Rolls-Royce, the aeroengine maker, has won a £150m contract with British Aerospace to supply engines to power Australia's Hawk fighter aircraft with British Aerospace, The contract, for Rolls-Royce Turbomeca

Adour Mk 871 engines, covers 33 aircraft for the Royal Australian Air Force. Rolls-Royce will make the first batch of Adour engines at its Bristol plant, with the first to be delivered to BAe next month. Qantas will assemble and test the remaining engines from UK-supplied kits at its Sydney Airport workshops. Rolls shares closed 15p down at 256.5p, amid speculation of an exclusive link-np between General Electric of the US and Boeing.

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FTSE 250	5200,90	23.70	0.46	5970.90	4247,60	3.20
FTSE 350	2892,90	36.30	1,27	2969,10	2210.40	2.70
FTSE All Share	2795.39	33,82	1:23	2886.52	2143.53	2.74
FTSE SmallCap	2248.10	7,50	0.34	2793,80	1834.40	3.58
FTSE Fledgling	1228.90	0.90	0.07	1517.10	1046.20	4.41
FTSE AIM	B25.50	-2.00	-0.24	1146.90	761,30	1,21
FTSE Eurotop 100	2775.72	21.12	0.77	3079.27	2018.15	2.12
FTSE Eurotop 300	1209,41	8_37	0.70	1332,07	880.63	1.98
Dow Jones	9334,88	60.51	0,65	9647.96	7400.30	1.65
Nikkei	14232.64	177,92	1.27	17352.35	12787.90	1,02
Hang Seng	9402.39	-23.03	-0.24	11926.16	6544.79	3.73
Dan	4904:68	25.13	0.52	6217.83	3833.71	1.74
5&P 500	1246.79	16.71	1.36	1283.6A	923.32	1.27
Nasdag	2348.73	27.37	: 1,18	2533,44	1357.09	0.29
Toronta 300	6449.40	1,82	E0,0	7837.70	5320.90	1.64
Brazil Bovespa	8952.30	·37,83	-0.42	12339,14	4575.69	6.92
Belgium Bel20	3403.37	-4.66	-0,14	·3713.21	2644.70	2.09
Amsterdam Exch	522.84	-0.47	-0.09	600.65	366.58	1,28
France CAC 40	4052.32	-12.87	-0.32	4404.94	2881.21	1.99
OE8IM neliM	33759.00	-587.00	-1.71	39170.00	24175.00	1.21
Madrid Ibex 35	9799.30	-107.80	-1.03	10989.80	6869.90	1.90
irish Overall	5310.50	74.74	1.43	5581.70	3732.57	1.47
5 Korea Comp	551.77	0.00	0.00	651.95	277.37	0.06
Australia ASX	2859.40	-18.40	-0.64	2948.70	2386.70	3.21

UK 10 YEAR GILT	US LONG BOND
4.50	3.46
40	542
4.30	5.35
420 W T F M T	5.34 W T F M T
	4.50 6.40 4.30

INTEREST RATES

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M	ONEY N	LARK	ET RA	TES			YELD	
Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr che	10 year	Yy che	Long bend	Yr de
UK		-2.08	5.25	-2.20	4.42	-1.50	4.38	·1.5
US	5.00	-0.63	5.24	-0.41	5.03	0.45	5.37	0.4
_	0.33	-0.51	0.36	-0.46	2.09	0.13	3.28	0.7
Japan	0.33	-0.5						

Germany 3.09 -0.42 3.04 -0.73 3.91 -1.06 4.86 -0.68

C	URRENCIE	5		
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	POUND				_ por	"Yr Ago	
	1.6318	+0.410	1.6380	Sterling	0.6128	-0,16p	0.6105
Dollar			1.4079	Euro	0.8939	-22.92c	0.8573
Euro	1.4595	+¥4.55		Yen	118.07	+42.44	126.07
Yen	192.74	0.00	104.80	S Index	105.50	0.00	108.80

ОТ	113	RIN	DICAI	V.		
		Yr Ago		Og	Yr ago	Nest figs
Arent Oil (5) 10.32		24.24	GDP 115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
<u> arent Oil (\$) 10.32</u>	0.04	700 25	RPI 163.40	2.40	159.57	Feb

5.67 -0.09 www.bloomberg.com/uk

		0		
		2,4530	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.
	Australia (5)		Netherlands (guilders)	3.10
	Austria (schillings)	19.36	New Zealand (5)	2.88
	integium (francs)	56.91	New Zeatano (4)	12.
	Vinada (5)	2.3709	Norway (kroner)	281.
1		0.8145	Portugal (escudos)	
	Cyprus (pounds)	10.53	Saudi Arabia (rials)	<u>5.92</u>
1	Denmark (kroner)	8.3998	Singapore (5)	2.61
	Finland (markka)		South Africa (rands)	9.58
	France (francs)	9.2480	Spain (pesetas)	234.
	Germany (marks)	2.7670	Spain (pescus)	12.
	Greece (drachma)	455.08	Sweden (kronor)	2.25
	Home Kong (S)	12.21	Switzerland (francs)	54.
į	Hong Kong (5)	1.1079	Thailand (bahcs)	_
	ireland (punts)	62.13	Turkey (Ikrasi)	5383
	Indian (rupees)	6.0844	USA (S)	1.58
	l	D.U047		

186,38

italy (lira)

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Malaysia (ringgits)

Barclays declares war on costs as profits slip to £1.9bn

THE RAPID rehabilitation of BY ANDREW GARFIELD Barclays Bank accelerated further yesterday after Sir Peter Middleton, the acting chief executive, declared an all-out war on costs

Speaking as the group reported a pre-tax profit of £1.92bn, roughly in line with what the market was told to expect last November, Sir Peter highlighted the 5 per cent rise in costs last year as evidence of where the bank needed to turn its attention now it had dealt with the problems elsewhere in the group. Sir Peter said that there "is

substantial opportunity to re- tional charge for cost reduction

years," adding that the 15 per cent savings announced at Barclaycard last September

showed what could be done. Filling in the details of both the size and scope of the savings will be the job of Mike O'Neill, the new chief executive, who takes the reins next

Sir Peter said the plan is to give more details at the halfyear stage. He also warned the City to expect "an excep-

purposes," adding that retail and with the economy's down-financial services and corporate turn, the emphasis had to shift. banking the areas where the axe was most likely to fall.

In the meantime, he said, Barclays' costs will be held at 1998 levels as a "payment on ac-Some of the rise in costs

came as a result of the bank's £160m total expenditure on both the euro conversion and the year 2000 problem. These costs are budgeted to fall to £120m this year.

However, Sir Peter admitted that the focus last year had been on growing the business rather than containing costs,

turn, the emphasis had to shift. The tough talk from Sir Peter provided further cheer to the City where the bank's shares have soared by nearly £4

since the appointment of the

new chief executive was an-Barciays' shares closed up 102p at 1692p, brushing aside what would in normal circum-

stances have been seen as a disappointing set of results. The group also announced a 16 per cent increase in dividend

to 43p and pledged to maintain its share buyback programme at the current level of £500m a

year for 1999. Sir Peter said that August's financial turmoil, had following the reorganisation of the business into four key divisions the bank now had the structure it wanted.

He insisted that as far as mergers were concerned, the group bad "nothing on the

He said that the group would look at anything which was consistent with the strategy but was not "mesmerised" by the idea of a merger, adding: "We are interested in both the

UK and abroad." Sir Peter said that Barclays Capital, the bond-broking exited the businesses that caused the problems and was now an integral part of the

He said that at Barclays Capital he expected this year to see a positive sign where there is a negative sign now. The operation has pulled

out of proprietary trading and reduced the risk profile of the

Barclays Capital is a key part of the offering to large corporates," Sir Peter said. "It now has no businesses that do not support client busi-

Brown gets £12bn boost for Budget

cellor, received an unexpected pre-Budget boost yesterday after official figures revealed that the Government achieved a record budget surplus in

Economists predicted that ing that the Chancellor could rate of 10p without cutting into mortgage interest relief or the married couples' allowance.

Jonathan Loynes at HSBC Securities said: "Mr Brown could conceivably spend several billion pounds on the March Budget and yet still forecast that he will meet his fiscal rules". Other economists, however,

were more gloomy, warning that monthly public finance figures tended to be volatile. Treasurv officials also cautioned against reading too much into one month's data. Although corporation tax receipts mean that January is al-

ways a good month for the public finances, the record monthly surplus of £12.4bn was substantially higher than City expectations. Analysts said they had underestimated both the impact

of self-assessment on income

tax receipts and the fall in departmental spending. Inland revenue receipts totalled £8.1bn in January, the Office for National Statistics said.

GORDON BROWN, the Chan- BY LEA PATERSON

£7.5hn higher than December. Departmental spending fell £4.1bn to £21.1bn. January's bumper figures

mean the Government has achieved a budget surplus of the Government could be on £13.7bn so far this fiscal year, course for an annual budget sur- £10bn more than at the same plus of as much as £10bn, mean-point last year. Although the Government tends to borrow afford to introduce a starting tax both in February and March, only a slight year-on-year improvement would leave it with a surplus for the financial year of as much as £10bn, according tially higher than the £4.3bn forecast by the Treasury in November's pre-Budget statement, and would leave Mr

> the Budget on 9 March. Some analysts, however, warned that the public finances could deteriorate substantially over the coming months as economic growth slowed.

Brown with considerable room

for manoeuvre when he unveils

A number also noted that departmental spending tended to accelerate towards the end of the financial year Neil Parker at Royal Bank of

Scotland said: "We would caution against over-exuberance. We believe that departments will increase spending in the last two months of the year to use up all available funds. This could add £4bn per month to government spending".

Outlook, page 19



High-street shoe shaps cut prices in January by 6.8 per cent; more than at any time since 1947

Record fall in clothes and shoe prices

more sharply in January than at any time since 1947, according to official figures released yesterday, writes Lea Paterson.

However, despite the record fall in some prices, the UK's underlying inflation rate remained at 2.6 per cent, above the Government's 2.5 per cent target, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said

Prices of clothes and shoes fell by 6.8 per cent last mouth the largest monthly drop since records began in 1947 - as retailers slashed prices in an

CLOTHING AND shoe prices fell attempt to draw consumers secutive month that underlying back into the shops.

Tough conditions on the high street also hit prices of household goods, including furniture and electrical appliances. Taken together, the prices of household goods fell by 4.7 per cent, the largest monthly fall since records began in 1956.

Despite these sharp falls, increases in non-seasonal food prices and higher fuel and light charges meant the underlying rate of inflation remained unchanged at 2.5 per cent in January. This was the second con-

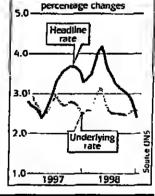
inflation overshot its target. Analysts said the data made further interest rate cuts next

month look less likely, and the pound hit a record high against the euro, closing at 68.45p.

The headline rate of inflation

which includes mortgage interest payments - fell 0.4 per cent to 2.4 per cent, the lowest rate since September 1996.

The drop was largely due to lower mortgage costs, analysts said, with lenders passing recent interest rate cuts onto



ONS to cut 1,000 jobs Boots' option scheme in efficiency shake-up breaks new ground

to go at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of a wide-ranging shake-up of the agency, it emerged yesterday. Announcing the recom-

mendations of an independent efficiency review, Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said there was scope for annual cost savings of up to £20m at the ONS. Ms Hewitt said she would

consult with trade unions before implementing the recommendations of the review, which included involving private sector firms in data collection and rationalising sup-

MORE THAN 1,000 jobs are set BY LEA PATERSON

port services. An independent steering group, chaired by the Lloyds TSB chief executive Peter Ellwood, recommended that the ONS's 3100-strong workforce be reduced by one-

If the recommendations are implemented, 680 ONS jobs would transfer into the private sector, while another 350 would be eliminated altogeth-

No redundancies should be necessary, according to the steering group, with natural wastage accounting for most of separate reviews.

the reduction in bead count. The departments most affected are likely to include personnel, finance, marketing and

The steering group also recommended a shake-up in senior management at the agency, arguing that a streogthened management team and a new management structure would be needed to carry its proposals forward.

The ONS, which came under fire for its handling of controversial revisions to key earnings figures in the autumn, is also the subject of a series of

BOOTS YESTERDAY claimed it BY NIGEL COPE had broken new ground in the way companies account for employee share options with a scheme that will see Boots buy in existing shares rather than

ssue new ones.

The change will lead to a charge of £63m against Boots' profits in the current year with an expected charge of £20m a year thereafter. Boots said the arrangement would avoid the dilution of existing shareholders and help towards a more efficient capital structure. "As far as we can see we are

the first UK company to account for employee options in Associate City Editor

this way," a Boots spokesman said. Boots has already undertaken £800m of share buy-backs in the past few years and paid a £400m special dividend. Boots shares rose 32.5p to 926.5p on the news. Under the terms of the new

arrangement, Boots has set up a qualifying employee share ownership trust (Quest) connected with its SAYE share option scheme for staff members. Boots will buy existing shares for the staff trust and charge the difference between the option

price and the actual price to its profit and loss account. This reduces the number of shares in circulation and thereby increases earnings. Boots has granted SAYE options oo 18.3 million shares at prices ranging from 310p to 808p. Accountants said the move

might put pressure on other nies to follow suit.

SG Securities retail analyst Ashley Thomas repeated his "buy" recommendation on Boots and said: "The Quest scheme demonstrates Boots' further commitment to delivering shareholder value."

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

NEW YORK LONDON

SHARES MOVED towards their alltime peak with Footsie closing 85.4 points higher at 6,108.6, just 70.4 from its July record. Supporting shares were firm.

Banks led the Footsie charge with Barclays, following results and a higher dividend, up 102p to 1,692p. Tobaccos also made a big contribution, pushed up by the Government's decision to stop the National Health Service starting legal action to recover smoking

US STOCKS rose, helped by lower bond yields and unexpectedly strong earnings from Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer. The Dow Jones Industrial

Average rose 75.44, or 0.8 per

cent, to 9,349,26. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index gained 19.26, or 1.6 per cent, to 1249.23. The Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 34.49, or 1.5 per cent, to 2,355.38. Eight stocks rose for every five that fell on the New York Stock Exchange.

TOKYO

TOKYO STOCKS rose for a fourth straight session as interest rates fell on news that the Ministry of Finance would resume buying government debt. The Nikkei 225 average rose 177.92 points or 1.27 per cent to end at 14.232 84. Nikkei March futures stood 200 higher at 14,230. Earlier in the day, the Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said his ministry would begin buying government bonds from the

secondary market later this month

or in March, fuelling a sharp drop in

FRANKFURT

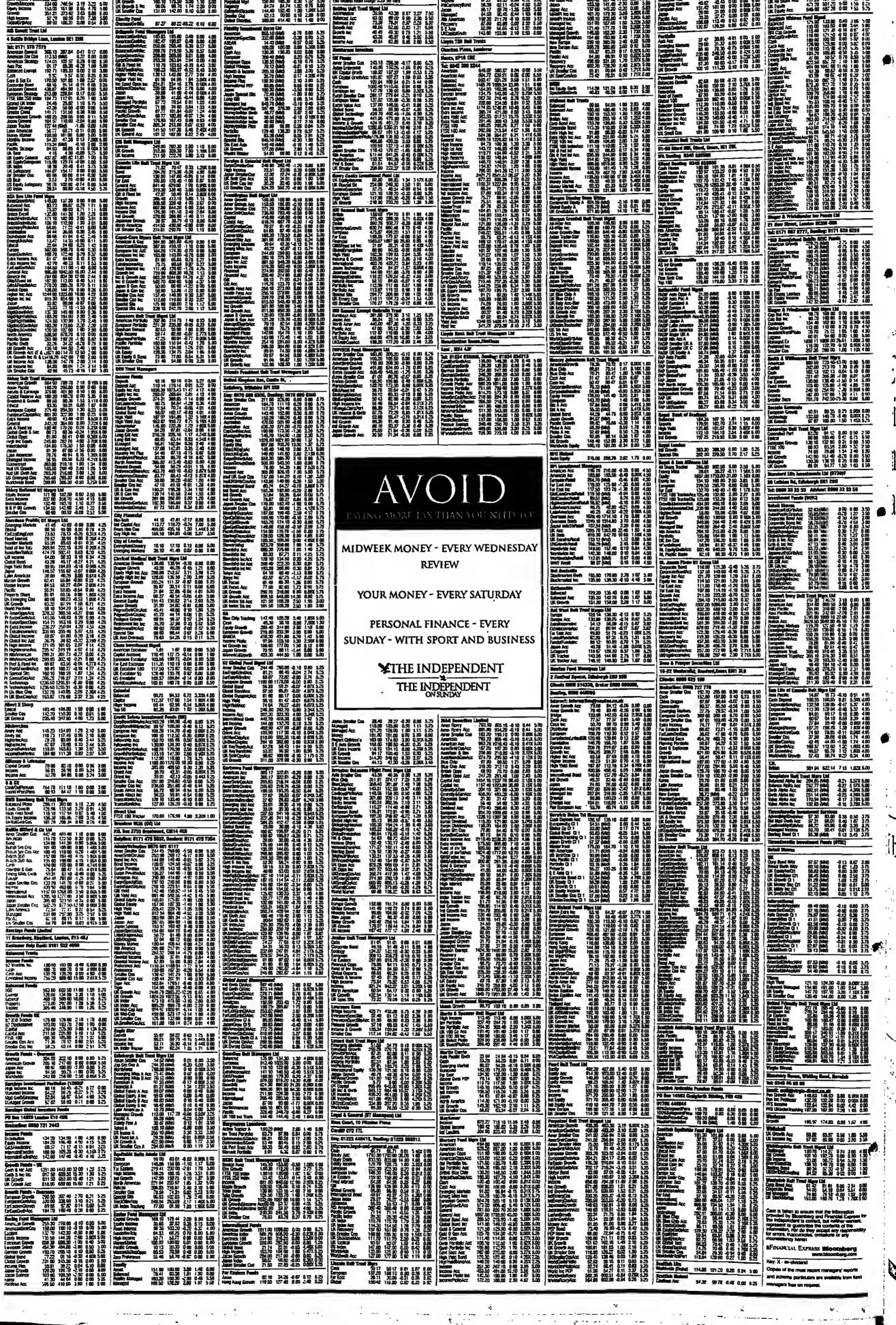
GERMANY'S benchmark Xetra DAX index ended barely higher yesterday in lacklustre carnivalseason trade, supported by a robust start on Wall Street. The Xetra DAX closed up 6.16 points, or 0.13 per cent, at 4,895.11 points. In floor trading, the DAX climbed 25.13 points, or 0.52 per cent, to 4,904.68 points. Shares in Deutsche Bank shares ended 4.68 per cent higher at 48.95 euros after New York anthorities withdrew objections to the bank's purchase of Bankers Trust.

PARIS

STOCKS ended a choppy session of diminished liquidity slightly lower. The CAC-40 index closed down 0.32 per cent at 4,052.32 in volume of 1.6 billion euros.

Eurotunnel closed 17.7 per cent higher on a combination of bid speculation combined with talk that the company may continue to buy back debt. Energy engineering group Technip rose 13.55 per cent after better than expected 1998 results and it forecast a 50 per cent increase in earnings per share within three years.

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Don't spend it all at once, Mr Brown

THE UK economy is changing out of all recognition. The Great Britain we all know and love is a high-inflation, high-unemployment nation, with a burgeoning budget deficit that doesn't go away, even in the good times. Over the past year or two, however, the economy has started to look disconcertingly different.

Inflation has been more or less at the Government's target for many months now. Employment is at a record high. And the public finances -as the latest set of figures show only too clearly - are in amazingly good shape. The Government's budget surplus hit a monthly record in January, leading some economists to predict a surplus for the year of more than £10bn. This is more than double the level forecast by the Treasury back lic finances so far is a mixture of good in November, and leaves Gordon Brown looking exceedingly comfortable going into next month's Budget.

Or does it? The UK's budget surplus is a notoriously unpredictable beast. As the difference between two staggeringly large numbers - total government receipts and total government expenditure - the series is prone to substantial fluctuations from month to month. It is also highly sensitive to cyclical variations. Even a small downturn in economic growth,



OUTLOOK

which reduces income tax receipts and boosts spending on unemployment benefit, can leave a large hole in the Government's numbers.

Mr Brown's success with the pubmanagement, good inck and good timing. Although the Chancellor deserves to be congratulated for keeping tight control of the public purse, and for his bold move to grant the Bank of England independence, he has received a helping hand from unexpected quarters.

No one predicted, for example, the positive impact self-assessment would have on tax receipts. Timing has also been on the Chancellor's side. The economy reached its

growth peak in 1998 - it's all down-hill from here.

This all means Mr Brown should approach yesterday's public finance figures with care, and resist the temptation to loosen the purse strings too far in the Budget. The British economy is doing surprisingly well. It would be a terrible shame to put it in jeopardy.

Share options

SHAREHOLDER VALUE has long been a priority at Boots, and it rarely tires of lecturing all-comers on the subject - just don't mention Ward White, now eradicated from the record as if this destruction of value never happened. To this end, the company has scrapped share options for directors and replaced them with long-term bonuses based on total shareholder return. And at every resuits meeting Lord Blyth, the Boots chairman, gleefully flashes up a lit-tle table showing just how well Boots is performing against its peer group on this measure (share price per-

formance plus divide ad payments). To boot (forgive the pun), Boots has undertaken £800m of share buy-backs in the past three years and paid out a special dividend of £400m. Now

it has pushed out the envelope a little further.

Yesterday's announcement that Boots will satisfy its obligations on staff share options by buying existing shares in the market rather than issuing new ones is the kind of subject only an accountant can get excited about. The main benefit is that buying in existing shares rather than issuing new ones means the value of current shares is not diluted. It also means that the scheme is consistent with Boots' policy of reducing the mumber of shares in circulation and thereby enhancing earnings. And it recognises that share options as a form of remuneration carry a real cost. They should not be treated as manna

Boots will as a consequence take a £63m hit to the bottom line this year and £20m a year thereafter. The real cost of share options thus becomes disclosed and transparent. In most other schemes the cost of option payments is passed straight to the reserves and nobody bats an eyelid. This is seen as acceptable in the UK where the amount of staff compensation paid out in the form of options is fairly low.

The situation is very different in

the US, where nothing is done by halves. Many tech companies pay a high proportion of their wage hill in stock options, prompting growing concern about a potentially vast corporate liability which goes almost en-

tirely unrecognised in accounting terms. The most oft-quoted example is Microsoft, which has created hundreds of Microsoft millionaires through the issue of options. The story goes that if Microsoft had recorded those as a cost to the profit and loss account, or paid them as salary, the business would have

made a loss only a few years ago. On this side of the Atlantic, the problem doesn't exist on anything like the same scale. That, of course, makes it a much easier one to deal with. Even so, full marks to Boots in grasping the nettle in this way.

Boardroom pay

BEING ESSENTIALLY a Glastonian Liberal at heart. Tony Blair has always believed he ought to be able to rely on businessmen to lead by moral example and exercise restraint in the amount they pay themselves. Unfortunately it doesn't work that way in the modern world, if it ever did. Since Labour came to power the pay difthe pile and those at the bottom has continued to widen.

The boardrooms of Britain's largest companies increasingly feel it necessary to pay themselves according to global, generally American, benchmarks, and there has been a continued news flow of multi-million pound remuneration packages for senior executives. Barclays is having to pay Mike O'Neill an American style package of salary options, shadow options and bonuses to persuade him take the chief executive's job; be refused to come for any less.

So if executives cannot be relied upoo to exercise restraint, what can the Covernment do about it? Like John Major, it could refuse offending businessmen their gong, but that doesn't seem to do the trick either, Nor can Labour, having fully con-verted to the cause of free market economics, realistically impose restraint centrally through Act of Parliament. Alternatively it could tax the rich more highly, but only the Lib Dems believe in doing that.

Instead Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, is reported to be falling back on that old chestnut - obliging shareholders to do their duty: Such an approach is not entirely

ferential between those at the top of without merit. Rarely do shareholders get an opportunity to vote directly on director's pay, and even when they do, the structure of share ownership in Britain, with control focused in the hands of a small number of highly paid fund managers, means their stance is often an apathetic one.

> This could be remedied in two ways. Companies might be obliged through the listing requirements to put directors' remuneration to the vote on an annual basis, in the same way as they do with auditors' fees. Secondly, pension fund trustees might be obliged to exercise that vote with abstention no longer an option. There is a general objection to be made to any form of legally imposed coercion, but even so, neither of these measures could be regarded as particularly contentious. But whether they would have what Mr Byers seems to regard as the required effect, is another thing. Nor is it clear that to put moral pressure on sharebolders to ratchet down the salaries of their executive officers is in their own best interests. We can all point to examples of excess in the boardroom, but if the effect is to make British boardroom pay uncompetitive when set against the alternatives,

EU raids eight banks in exchange rate probe

EIGHT of Europe's best known BY STEPHEN CASTLE banks, including lenders in Germany France, Italy and Spain were raided yesterday in a European Union-wide investigation into charges for exchanging notes and coins within the 11-pation eurozone.

in virtually all of the 11 nations demanding information on their tariffs. The move is the most dramatic evidence yet of concern in Brussels that consumers are not benefiting from one of the main selling points of the euro

 the locking of exchange rates. Karel Van Miert, Europe's Competition Commissioner, was seeking evidence to support claims of collusion and anticompetitive behaviour among banks. Mr Van Miert told journalists that the banks raided were Deutsche Bank AG, Dresdner Bank AG, Credit Agricole, Société Générale, Banca Commerciale Italiana, Cassa di Risparmio delle Province Lombarde SpA, Banco Bilbao Viz-

cava SA and Argentaria Corp Bancaria de Espana SA.

The commission added that the investigators were "not made especially welcome in said it also sent letters to banks an example. Since January the commission had, he said, received indications that "some kind of concertation" was taking place, perhaps through national banking associations and at the European level.

Mr Van Miert added that be singled out the eight banks that were raided because "a choice had to be made" and there was a "likelihood" evidence would be

Transaction charges have become especially controversial because the advent of the euro has ended the publication of different rates for buyers and sellers. Banks argue that the differential between the two rates allowed them to make a profit from the transaction - some-





tions by members of the Euronean Parliament suggest some mmissions have been as high as 3.75 per cent.

A Deutsche Bank spokesman dmitted that two members of the commission's anti-trust committee and one representative of the German federal antitrust office had paid the bank an "informational" visit.

"They inquired bow we determine charges for exchanging national currencies and we provided information. There was no

been collusion over the charges. The setting of our 3 per cent surcharge for currency exchanges has been a normal decisionmaking process," he said.

Banco Bilbao Vizcaya SA said it was confident it would be vindicated, adding that its commission charges were the

The commission is worried about the reaction of travellers in the eurozone, as they realise the benefits of the single currency are slow to materialise.

Voss Net catches Internet fever

VOSS NET, the AIM-listed electronic commerce group, has become the latest stock to catch Internet fever after the company announced an agreement to supply free Internet access to schools in Britain.

Shares in the stock market tiddler doubled in early trading before closing 21.5p higher at 65p on the agreement with Free Computers for Education, a registered charity.

FCE collects unwanted computers from industry, refurbishes them and supplies them free to schools. Under the terms of yesterday's deal Voss Net has a four-year contract to supply schools with unlimited free Inname. It will earn its income from a proportion of the tele-

Associate City Editor

charges and will use the money to buy more computer equip-ment for schools. Voss Net said: The provision of free Internet access will form an important element of the company's strategy going forwards."

Free Internet access has become the latest trend in the small, but rapidly growing UK electronic commerce market. Dixons was first with the launch in September of its Freeserve service which now has more than a million members. Tesco and last week BT have since followed suit and experts predict ternet access under the FCE a wave of copycat launches. The providers waive the usual monthly subscription fee and phone revenue generated from make their money from the the Internet usage. FCE will helpline charges and the call also take a cut of the telephone revenue while users are on-line.

to **you**

pialn English - not jargon

a Time store with easy parking.

IT breeds new multi-millionaires

A NEW batch of computer industry executives are set to become paper multi-millionaires later this year as the stock market rekindles its love affair with information technology stocks. Duncan McIntyre, the chief

executive of Morse, is likely to be worth around £25m on paper when the computer distribution group joins the Stock Exchange in a £300m flotation later this year.

Meanwhile, Mark Hunter, the chief executive of the consultancy Axon, will see his shareholding valued at up to £30m. The firm, which specialises in

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

implementing business software supplied by the German giant SAP, will be valued at £80m to £100m It has also emerged that the

chief executive of Synstar, the desktop services and disaster recovery group, will pocket up to £7m from its flotation which will be valued at £252m to £301m. Richard Ferré is thought to

have invested under £1m in the company 18 months ago when it was the subject of an £89m management buyout from Granada, the botels and media giant.

AER%

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2.00

3,60

Business Direct

Interest Rates Change

With effect from Tuesday 16th February 1999

The Co-operative Bank Business Direct Account

Credit Interest will be as follows:

%

0.87

1.50

2.50

4.50

The COPERATIVE BANK

THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK PLC., HEAD OFFICE,

I BALLOON STREET, MANCHESTER M60 4EP.

Gross

AER%

0.87

2,52

(2,000+

£25,000+

€100,000+

£250.000+

British investors are once again enthusiastic about information technology stocks. Shares in leading computer services companies have recovered this year after a serious wobble in

However, the rash of flotations has revived accusations that the management and their venture capital backers are seeking to cash in ahead of an expected slowdown in demand for IT services later this year

the autumn of last year.

Those fears were fuelled by the revelation that Synstar is fac-ing potentially damaging com-total operating profit of £9.4m.

The bonanza suggests that pensation claims if its clients computer systems fail as a result of the millennium bug.

> Synstar's flotation prospectus reveals that its disaster recovery division - which provides a back up of companies' computer systems to prevent informa tion being lost in a disaster could be held responsible for the failure of two of its clients' systems which are unlikely to be ready in time for the millennium. Synstar is liable to pay up to £4m of damages if the systems fail. In the year to last Sep-

IN BRIEF

Birds Eye Wall's creates 275 jobs

BIRDS EYE WALLS, the UK-based ice-cream arm of Anglo-Dutch consumer products group Unilever, is to create more than 275 jobs in sales and distribution. The company said yesterday it was creating a new network of contracted out service providers under the "Wall's Direct" name, which will be fully operational from I March.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE has named a consortium led by ICL. the IT services company, as the preferred bidder to supply secure IT and telecoms services to HM Customs & Excise, in a private finance initiative deal expected to cost £500m over the next 10 years. The contract is expected to be awarded next spring.

THE ISLE OF MAN is to introduce a 15 per cent tax band from 1999/2000 for companies' first £100,000 of taxable income the



EXEC Models: Indude 5 kp games, joystok, gamepad, microphone, and 13 edna CO titles for just ISB Plus VAT-E118.33 Edna.

on EXEC models only

1. Pay Nothing Until Feb 2000

ICL set to win £500m PFI deal

Isle of Man unveils 15% company tax

Manx treasury minister, Richard Corkill, said in his budget yesterday. He added: "British ministers have constitutional statement to Europe, which indicates it would be unprecedented for the UK government to interfere with our domestic legislation, which includes taxation."



that's the UK's largest PC retaller 120 stores nationwide Freephone 0800 316 2 317

Direct order line Freenhone 0800 771107

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 17 February 1999

MAIN MOVERS | September | Price | CATIONS 0 417".

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Banks Potsi an oxighted

Banks edge Footsie towards all-time high

ONCE AGAIN Footsie inched towards its all-time high, climbing 85.4 points to 6,108.6. Since peaking at 6,179 in July, the index has made more than half-a-dozen attempts to establish a new top.

But although it managed a trading high last month it has found it impossible to strike a new closing record. Banks, helped along by Barclays, were behind the latest ad-

Barclays rose 102p to 1,692p and National Westminster Bank 97p to 1,379p. Bank of Scotland was 36p higher at 909.5p and Woolwich 17.5p at 365.5p. The stock market latched on to Barclays' increased dividend. With interest rates falling, higher dividend payments are achieving even greater significance than in the past.

There is also the growing possibility of takeover action among the banking community Last week Lloyds TSB. up 22p to 904.5p, displayed its acquisitive inclinations and although Barclays will, at least for the time being, mark time

STEPHEN DEAN has sold most of his shares in **Environmental Property** Services.

A 29.6 per cent stake has been picked np at 9.8p a share by investors led by Lupus Associates, where Charles Ryder, formerly of Magellan Industries, is a leading

Mr Dean intends to concentrate on builder Artisan (UK), which split from EPS last year.

EPS beld at 9.75p and Artisan edged ahead 0.25n to 4.75p.

until new chief executive Michael O'Neill gets his feet group will not ignore future

Mergers between clearing and mortgage banks are thought to be the most likely development although more

cross border deals are also ex-Allied Irish Banks is regarded by many as the next

bank to fall to a bid, with Lloyds now the favourite to strike. The shares have had a volatile run and rose 30.5p to 1,132.5p in brisk trading. New York's early strength was a positive influence and

there were also vague hopes that perhaps Tokyo's despair is coming to an end.

The banking excitement helped swell trading volume back above 1 billion shares with Centrica, the gas group,

Name

Low & Boser (F)

Turnover (f)

37.66m (30 11m) 403.92m (438.68m

13.15m (12.15m)

424,57m (331,24m) 7,36m (1,08m) 187,48m (179,34m)

79.16m (81.82m)

4.69m (3.76m) 1.25b (1.13b)



the most heavily traded with

Seaq putting volume at 24.1

million. Supporting shares

were firm. The mid cap index

Cattles, the consumer

rose 23.7 to 5,200.9 and the

credit group, underlined the

widespread appeal of finan-

cials, scoring a 13p gain to a

peak of 759.5p. Year's results

are due next month. They are

expected to come out at

around £48m, against the

£55.1m achieved in the previ-

Anivescap, the fund man-

Tobacco shares continued

to be puffed higher following

the Government's decision

that the National Health Ser-

vice cannot sue cigarette mak-

ers, Imperial Tobacco swirled

43p higher to 754.5p and Gal-

laher 21p to 444p. British

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

American Tobacco was up

Eurotumnel rose 11p to 84p

16.5p to 612.5p in sympathy.

on rumoured stake building

French financier Vincent Bol-

lore denied he was interested.

to 367.5p ahead of an invest-

ment presentation tomorrow

by the new chief executive,

Peter Salisbury. United News

& Media, holding City brief-

its telecom arm. Goldman

COMPANY RESULTS

-11.84p (19.79p

18.6p(17.6p

22.15p(16.38p) -1.82p (1.16p) 15.58p(21.68p) 9.8p (7 0p)

Pre-tax (£)

1.918b (1.716b) 12.66m (11.3m) 4.97m(3.67m) 2.13m (1.33m) -3.44m(30.23m) 5.02m(5.25m) 9.76m (7.26m) -0.140m(0.077m)

-0.140m(0.077m) 11.35m(14.81m) 3.68m (2.90m) 1.13m(1.06m) 97.8m(64.1m)

ScottishPower gained 8p to

ings, was flat at 600p.

Marks & Spencer firmed

750 - CATTLES

ager, was the best performing

Footsie constituent, gaining

ous year,

44.5p to 607.5p.

small cap 7.5 to 2,248.1.

explore the options available to the telecom business. The market expects Scottish-Power to go for a flotation. Rolls-Royce was ruffled by

Sachs has been appointed to

stories of increased competition from General Electric of the US, which is thought to be trying to squeeze the British group's engines out of some Boeing aircraft. The GE rumour overshadowed a £150m engines contract from British Aerospace.

Engineer Haden Maclellan rose 5p to 44.5p, a partial recovery from Monday's profit warning fall Albert E Sharp and Warburg Dillon Read upgraded the shares to a buy.

Voss Net caught Internet mania, surfing 21.5p higher to 65p, following a supply deal with a charity to provide free Internet access to schools. In the past year the shares have fallen from 160p and three years ago were 413p. The company is raising £125,000 placing shares at 45p.

Charles Stanley, the stockbroker thought to be considering corporate action, was

EXPECT ACQUISITIVE ITG, the AIM-traded Irish telecom and computer group, to disclose another takeover soon, possibly

Only last week the company paid £7.65m in cash and shares for Computers in Ireland. Last year ITG, which was started in 1989, put

through four takeovers. The group's shares firmed to 282.5p; they have been as high as 422.5p since arriving on AIM nearly two years

dealt 29p higher at 499p, an-

Victory Corporation, a Richard Branson company, held at 6.5p as it settled a near £2m debt owned by Cadoro, the trendy retailer where Mr Branson is a shareholder

Cadoro now owes the cash to Victory. Because of trading. difficulties, the retailer's shares were suspended last

month at 0.75p.

Booker, the cash and carry chain, responded to the £23m exceptional charge following the disposal of a wholesaling business by dropping 8.5p to 56p. The shares were 296p last year Low & Bonar, the packaging group, fell 15p to 165p after losses and a grim trading statement.

602.5p on the appointment of SEAQ VOLUME: 1.08bm Bill Allan as chief executive of SEAQ TRADES: 93,374 GILTS: 114.67 +0.48

Pay day

30.04.99 30.04.99 04.05.99

23.04.99

D4.05.99 26.04.99 14.04.99 08 04.99

05.04.99 05.05.99 08.04.99

01.07.99 23.02.99

Dividend

1.96p(1.75p) 2.4p (2.1p) 2.8p(2.6p) 15.85p(-) 10.2p(10.2p)

8.50p(5.25p) 0.75p(-) 5.85p(5.85p) 4.5p (-) 0.05p (-)

Profits rise puts Sema back in the market's good books

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

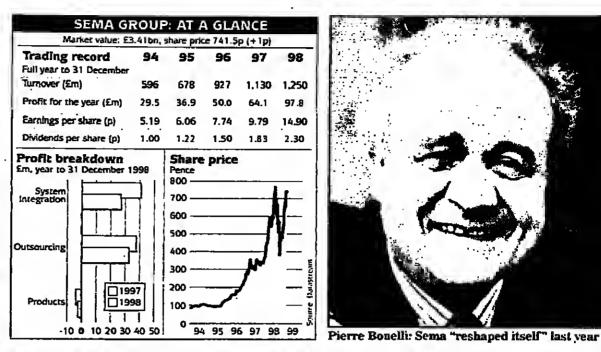
SEMA, THE Anglo-French computer services group, yesterday moved to re-establish its growth credentials when it reported a sharp rise in pre-tax profits and stressed its exposure to the fast-growing areas of mobile telephony and electronic commerce.

In the year to December, Sema made a pre-tax profit of £97.8m on revenues of £1.25bn. However, the figures were distorted by the sale in July of BAe Sema, its defence systems joint venture, to British Aerospace. On an underlying basis, profits grew by 31 per while turnover rose 21 per cent

The figures went some way to restoring the stock market's faith in Sema after an indifferent performance in previous years. The company pointed to booming demand from mobile phone operators for IT systems as one of the reasons for its growth. Sema reckons it has 16 per cent of this fast-growing market, making it the leader ahead of rivals such as Logica.

In the past year, Sema has established its credentials as a complete range of services". competitor for large contracts by winning the five-year deal to handle the Benefits Agency's medical services systems. Last year it won a contest to oversee all IT systems for the Olympic Games from 2002 to 2008.

Pierre Bonelli, Sema's chief



tense and pivotal year" in which the company "has reshaped itself to concentrate on its chosen high-growth markets and to continue to exploit its unique positioning as a provider of a

But analysts said Sema still had some way to go before it could truly measure itself. against the US giants of the computer services industry such as IBM and EDS. They said the company still does not have a significant presence in the United executive, said 1998 was an "in- States, even though it suggest-

afford to spend up to \$1bn on a US acquisition. But Tidu Maini, Sema's vice-president, said the company was merely being prudent. "When the right opportunity comes up you can feel it, it's like a marriage," he said.

Another area of concern is

which is still losing money as a result of a major two-year investment programme to bring Sema's software up to speed. William Bitam, Sema's fi-

the software products division,

ed more than a year ago it could was likely to break even in the much more risky and, on the current year. But some ob- back of this, investors might servers are concerned that Sema's decision to mix products and services was a departure from the usual practice of IT services companies.

"My concern with Sema is how they are changing the personality of the company," said George O'Connor, an analyst at Granville, "In the past, London investors have proven their absolute love of service companies. If you go down the product start reviewing their portfolio,"

it is

Nevertheless, most analysts yesterday upgraded their profforecasts for 1999 to about £95m, reflecting the expected potential benefits of Sema's joint venture with Broadvision. the US ecommerce software supplier. Most observers rate the shares, which edged up 1p to 741.5p yesterday after a

Low & Bonar tipped for takeover

LOW & BONAR was tipped as a BY NIGEL COPE potential takeover target yesterday after shares in the packaging group fell 13 per cent thue to a fall in underlying profits for the full year and a cautious

statement on current trading. Analysts said American predators, which are already circling rival Field Group, might be attracted by Low & Bonar's lowly valuation.

The shares, which closed 15p lower at 165p yesterday. currently trade on a forward multiple of just 6 and yield over 10 per cent. Analysts questioned whether the divideod

Associate City Editor

might be cut this year although management pledged to maintain the pay-out which is currently 1.2-times covered before exceptional charges.

We have no intention of cutting the dividend. We just felt it was prudent to maintain the second half pay-out," said Jim & Bonar

Low & Bonar has been hit by a series of problems in its major markets following the £67.5m acquisition of Wadding-

packaging operations have been affected by both an influx of lower priced imports from mainland Europe while the economic crisis in the Far East has led to further over-capacity in Europe while cutting de-

mand for its specialist materials products. Underlying profits were lower than expected at £46.2m.

a pre-tax loss of £3.3m after more than £50m of exceptional and re-organisational charges.

ton cartons last autumn. Its Manchester, which serves Kellogg's, and £9.5m of integration costs relating to the Waddington deal which will yield annual savings of £6m. Under Mr Heilig, Low &

> Bonar has started to achieve organic growth and is also shifting the balance of its sales towards higher margin husiness and away from low price packaging. But institutions have be-

come frustrated at the slow pace of change in a company whose shares have under-per-This includes £40m to cover formed the market by 52 per the cost of closure of a plant in cent in the past year.

high yield makes the stock an interesting income stock as interest rates fall. On top of this there is the prospect of a breakup hld either from a packaging player keen on using the carton business to boost market share. or a financial buyer.

Analysts point out that the

Added to this is the prospect of new management being brought in if the current team

This makes the stock a possible speculative punt, though if trading conditions continue to weaken there could still he further downside.

Barclays' head office in Lom-

bard Street should help to

make Mr O'Neill feel at home.

The chairman's dining room is

called "The Chairman's Mess".

Andrew Buxton, the outgoing

chairman of Barclays, who is a

former Guardsman. Mr Buxton

is the last member of the orig-

inal 20 Quaker families that

huilt Barclays in the last cen-

tury. As one wag commented on

the transfer of power: "From

Quaker to shaker".

Perhaps this is the legacy of

Heated time for receivers

WE'VE ALL heard of accountants "cooking the books", how-ever I doubt if many people have heard of a recent House of Lords proposal that receivers should be microwaved.

On 26 January the House of Lords debated a motion to end the practice where an investigating accountant sent in to help a troubled company is subsequently appointed its re-

in support of the motion. Lord Montague of Oxford pointed out that "a Chinese wall is like a Chinese takeaway. One takes it home and outs it in a microwave. I suggest to noble lords that many of the receivers should be dealt with in a similar way.

Ken Baird, a partner with City law firm Freshfields, who passed on this snippet, added: Possibly this is more of an argument for reform of the upper chamber than for reform of the Insolvency Act 1985".

People and **BUSINESS**

By John WILLCOCK

for the troubled side. The recovery specialists

Messrs Burton and Ariel have quite a track record in rescuing footy clubs. They got a taste of it carrying out the re-structuring of Brighton & Hove Albion in 1992 But they claim the lon Read in the City's receivership of Gillingham FC in Broadgate is that the firm 1995 as their best performance should make a bid for the newly



Footy saviours

THERE'S CERTAINLY NO EXcuse for wanting to microwave Tom Burton and John Ariel, administrators of Portsmouth Football Club, who are working hard to find a new backer

from accountants Kidsons Impey were sent in at the beginning of the month to sort out the finances of "Pompey", as the south-coast club is called.

so far Mr Burton says: "We found a huyer, when Gillingham was second bottom of Division 3... the club has now risen to 6th place in Division 2."

Mr Burton is a native of Glasgow, "where football is fairly difficult to avoid"; be supports Rangers. As for Mr Ariel, he comes from Kent, and supports Gillingham. He also used to support Maidstone - before they went out of business.

New letterhead?

IS THE venerable SG Warburg name to return? The suggestion doing the rounds of the trading floors at Warburg Dillon Read in the City's

created SG Paribas - thus returning the Swiss-owned investment bank to its original name of SG Warburg.

The bank was named after its founder Sigmund Warburg, a German refugee who built the bank into a global force in the 1950s and '60s. In the 1990s it was gobbled up by SBC to become SBC Warburg. The merger with Dillon Read in the US followed to create SBC Warburg Dillon Read. Then the merger last year with UBS created Warburg Dillon Read. Whatever happens, this must cost a fortune in new stationery.

O'Neill 'threat'

ONE COMMENT by Michael O'Neill which has been missed by coverage of his appointment to the helm of Barclays Bank has been his reaction to one iournalist's question last Friday: 'Have you ever killed anyone?'

The 52 year-old former US marine replied coolly: "Not yet". Chilling words for staff at

IT's Lapthorne MORSE, THE IT services company, has announced its inten-

tion to float and has appointed a heavyweight non-executive chairman, Richard Lapthorne, to help its cause. Mr Lapthorne is finance director and vice chairman of British Aerospace, and has a clutch of other nonexec directorships, including Nycomed Amersham, Orange and Robert Fleming.

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SPORT

'I like Giggs and Beckham. And I think the lad at Arsenal, Overmars, is a good two-footed player, very similar to what I was'

Sir Tom the pride of Preston

WHILE I wait for Sir Tom Finney to arrive, the receptionist at Preston North End's Deepdale football ground tells me that a stretch of Deepdale Road - from the Territorial Ārmy building to just past Sainshurys - has recently been renamed Sir Tom Finney Way. She then asks if I would like to contribute to a fund to raise money for a statue of Sir Tom Finney. At this point, Sir Tom Finney arrives, having safely negotiated Sir Tom Finney Way, and graciously agrees to pose for the Independent's photographer in front of the Tom Finney stand.

A master of understatement might say that Preston is rather proud of Sir Tom Finney. When his knighthood was announced last year, the Lancashire Evening Post printed a 48-page tribute. And North End's deputy chairman was not being over-sentimental when he said "for the town's senior citizens, it is the news they've been waiting for for many a year."

The object of this veneration is a spry 76-year-old with a kindly pink face and snow-white hair, a little plumper than the 10-stone waif who left defenders kicking air and was described by no less a judge than Bill Shankly - who played alongside him in the Preston team between 1946 and 1949 - as "probably the greatest footballer who will ever be born." The story goes that when George Best was at his peak, Shankly was asked if he thought Best was a hetter player than Finney. "Aye he is, just about." growled Shankly, "But don't forget that Tom is 50-odd."

It seems incongruous, in a way, that such a homely, unassuming man should have inspired so many cracking after-dinner anecodotes, one of the best of which is told by another old Preston team-mate Tommy Docherty. When I remind him of it, Finney chuckles.

"That one's quite true," he says. "Tommy came down from Celtic, and had a fairly good season with us. In those days we used to line up in the corridor before going in to the manager to find out our terms for the following year. I went in to see Bill Scott, the manager, and he said I'd be on the same terms as the year before, £12 a week during the season, and £10 a week in the summer, which was known as 12-and-10. and actually played seven or eight Tommy went in after me, and was told he'd be on 12-and-eight. T'm not signing,' he said. 'Tve just found out wartime. I also played a game or two that Finney's on 12-and-10.' The for Southampton when I was down manager couldn't believe it, 'But at Tidworth. With players moving all Finney's a far better player than you, he said. Not in the bloody summer he's not,' Tommy said."

house near Deepdale, and first dis- I'd get a game for Preston, although



THE BRIAN VINER INTERVIEW

layed his sublime skills in 30-a-side kickabouts on a potholed patch of waste ground. His father, an electricity board clerk, had him apprenticed to a firm of plumbers when he was 14. The following year, Preston North End invited him to join the ground staff, but his father said he had to finish his apprenticeship first. He was devastated, but the old man was right. Tom Finney Ltd, set up just after the war, eventually employed 60 staff, and has given Finney - who hung up his boots in 1960, the year before football's £20-a-week maximum wage was abolished - a comfortable retirement.

He finally joined the Preston

'I've never played against such a good side. We lost 7-1 and it was racehorses against carthorses'

ground staff in 1937, and was insideleft in the under-18 team until one fateful day when he stood in for the injured outside-right and played a hlinder. When Preston won the 1940-41 FA Cup final against Arsenal - a victory wiped from the official records by the war - Finney was on the right wing, tormenting the Arsenal and England captain and fullback, Eddie Hapgood. A year later

he was conscripted into the army. "I was stationed at Catterick, games with Newcastle, who got fantastic gates of 40,000-odd even in over the show in the forces, you used to approach the nearest club and say any chance of a game?' sort of Tom Finney grew up in a council thing. When I came home on leave,

the ground here was a prisoner-ofwar camp so we had to play at the Leyland Motors ground.

"Then I was posted overseas for three years, and played in Italy with the Eighth Army team. It was a very atrong side. We had Stan Cullis at centre-half, and Bryn Jones, who'd been sold for a record fee to Arsenal just before the war, and I remember we played the Polish XI and the RAF XI. In Egypt I played with The Wanderers who had some very good games against King Farouk's XI, which was quite an eye-opener, because one or two of them played in bare feet with bandages round

their ankles." In 1947, the England manager, Walter Winterbottom, experimented by moving Finney to outside-left. If Glenn Hoddle's experiments had worked half as spectacularly, he could have claimed to be the reincarnation of John the Baptist and still retained public support. For with Finney on the left wing and Stanley Matthews on the right, England went to Portugal and won 10-0.

Over the next few years, a debate raged in the nation's pubs - was Finney better than Matthews? As with Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus in another sport, the consensus now seems to be that Matthews had more charisma, but Finney was the better player. At the time, the press stoked up the debate into a bitter personal rivalry, which Finney robustly denies. "No, no. We were friends, me and Stan. We travelled down to England games together. And he called to congratulate me when I got the knighthood."

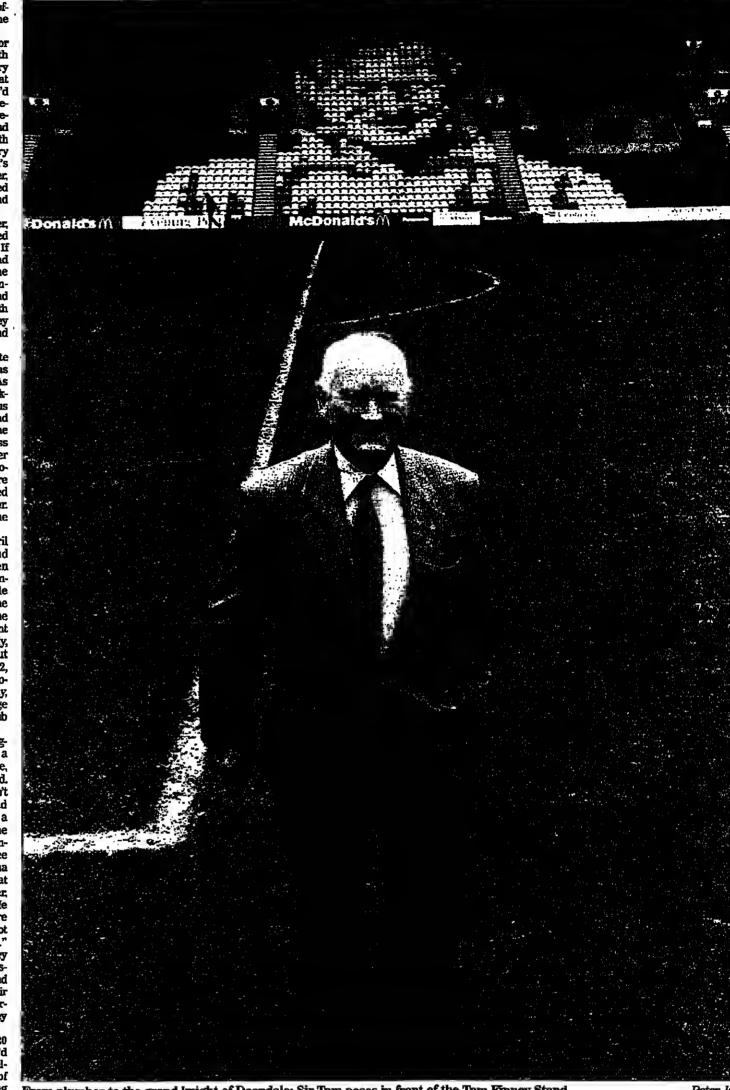
Both men were playing in April 1948 when England beat Scotland 2-0 in front of 130,000 at Hampden 'Park and Finney scored what he considers to be his most memorable goal, a screamer from the edge of the area. And they were both playing the following month when England went to Turin and overwhelmed Italy, the World Cup holders, 4-0. But Matthews was absent in April 1952, when England held Italy 1-1 in Florence. Finney sparkled that day, and afterwards received a message that the president of the Sicilian club Palermo wanted to see him.

"He offered me a £10,000 signingon fee, £120 a week, a house and a car. I was on £14 a week at the time, and I must say I was very tempted. My room-mate Ivor Broadis couldn't believe his ears. I came home and told the chairman of Preston, a man called Nat Buck, who was in the huilding trade and had a broad Lancashire accent. He said 'I'll tell thee now, if tha doesn't play for us, tha doesn't play for anyone.' And that was the end of it. A year or so after, John Charles moved over there. He was the first. But my kids were young and it would have caused a lot of problems. I've never regretted it."

Eighteen months later, Finney was injured for what was to be a historic meeting with Hungary England bad never lost at Wembley, and their 6-3 trouncing had seismic reverberations in the English game. Finney remembers the occasion well.

"The Hungarians came out 20 minutes before to warm up - we'd never seen that before. The little fellow Puskas was doing all sorts of fancy things with the ball, balancing it on his back and whatnot. They played with a deep-lying centreforward and we'd never seen that either. Manchester City went and copied it with Don Revie as a deeplying centre-forward and he caused all sorts of problems. Oh yes. It was a shock to some people to find we were not only not the best team in the world, we weren't even the best team in Europe. We started ques-tioning the 2-3-5 formation, which we'd always taken for granted."

Finney was fit for the return match in Budapest. "I've never Real Madrid." And what about the played against such a good side. We modern game? "I like Giggs and pace was used better in our day."



From plumber to the grand knight of Deepdale: Sir Tom poses in front of the Tom Finney Stand

I under

nice day and Ivor Broadis said it was the first time he'd ever had a sunhurnt tongue, because he spent all afternoon haring up and down with his tongue hanging out."

If the 1953 Hungarians were the greatest team Finney ever encountered, who was the greatest player he ever saw? He doesn't hesitate. The player I have admired more

lost 7-1 and it was racehorses Beckham very much. And I think the against carthorses. It was quite a lad at Arsenal, Overmars, is a good two-footed player, a very, very similar player to what I was. But I am saddened that the game is not as wide as it was. The number of times I see a man shape up to take a fella on, then give a pass inside. We used to love one-on-one situations, with only one man to get past. When it happens these days, the commen-tator goes on as if he's just seen a Martian. Giggs goes past people, and McManaman used to, but I do think

Whether or not Finney is right, it is a sobering thought that he earned less in an entire career than some inferior players now earn in a week. . You have to take account of more than inflation to get from £20 a week in 1959 to £30,000 a week in 1999. But characteristically, he expresses no bitterness. "The only thing that disappoints me is that players don't seem to honour contracts any more," he says.

In peacetime, Finney only once played for a British club other than Preston. In 1963, he was tempted out

of retirement by George Eastham manager of the Northern Ireland side, Distillery, who had been drawn in the European Cup against mighty Benfica. With 41-year-old Finney at centre-forward, Distillery held Benfica - including the great Eusebio to a remarkable 3-3 draw. "I played fairly well," recalls Finney. In well over an hour, this is as near as he gets to boasting. And yet, as I watch him climb into his car and rejoin the traffic on Sir Tom Finney Way, I reflect that there is nobody in football with more to boast about.

Replay weakens referee's rule

Nottingham Forest's Geoff Thomas has a tough assignment

as Tom Finney shows his ball skills down Preston's left wing

Sir: With good common sense, Arsene Wenger called for the Arsenal versus Sheffield Utd FA Cup tie to be replayed. The argument was based on the unwritten rule of ungentlemanly conduct, which by definition, has no definition.

But what of an earlier tie, between Oxford and Chelsea? Vialli dived his way to a stoppage-time penalty, thereby rescuing his team from defeat. Does this not also constitute ungentlemanly conduct?

It seems that the Football Association has set a precedent. Any team suffering from a controversial decision will justifiably point to this game and ask for a replay. We are then at the mercy of the after game honesty of managers and players. And where does this leave the referee? **GARY JACOB**

St Catherine's College

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293-2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Whistlers turn to whining

Sir. How depressing and predictable that referees should whine about their powerlessness to disallow that Arsenal "goal". Everyone knew the goal should not have been allowed and the referee should have used some initiative and common sense and ruled it out. I would have thought that unwritten rules could be enforced using unwritten powers. Any referee with a real feeling for the

game would have used them. Failing that, the referee as the sole arbiter of fact could have ruled

crossed the line. In fact I am surprised that this solution didn't occur to him, as referees seem quite happy to defy objective reality on

Replaying the game is preferable to allowing the result to stand, but it would have been a lot better if the referee, players, and management had done their duty and sorted things out at the time. BILL TRUMBLE

Blame Overmars

Sir: I am a totally committed Man United supporter, but I still agree that the throw-in a foul, or the scorer off- Arsène Wenger deserves respect and out, and ensured that the replay offer

ever, I am amazed that all the attention has been focused on Nwankwo Kanu and the constant pleas that he did not realise what the convention is in England. What London SW20 about Overmars? Why has no report I have seen or heard mentioned him?

Does he not know the convention of the game here? Has he just arrived? Even if we accept that Kanu does not know what should be done Str. The decision that the FA Cup in such circumstances (which I find hard to believe), I am totally amazed that Overmars has not been roundly criticised for his part in the fiasco.

All he had to do was stop. That would have sorted the whole mess side, or deemed that the ball never admiration for his replay offer. How- was not required. However he

played on and now must surely take the responsibility for causing this JEREMY GRAY

Nothing new

under the sun

game between Arsenal and Sheffield United should be played again is not unprecedented. Back in 1887 the fifth-round match between West Bromwich Albion and Lockwood Bros ended 1-0, but there was a dispute over the goal so the game was replayed at a neutral venue. KEN FOX Leeds LS6

England in need of an overhaul

Sir. Last Wednesday's international with France dispelled the myth that We would have won the World Cup" and it is not too difficult to see where England's deficiencies lie.

We need a clear-out of the old mindset and the older players, and a radical new approach. We should no longer think in terms of who partners Shearer, who is probably the best-ever old-fashioned English forward, but that is simply not good enough any more at international level. It is no longer about holding it up until help arrives - two touches is one too many. France and Nicolas Anelka Markyote, Herts

showed how these days a striker'a first touch has to be a cushioned pass or a flick that keeps the tempo going.

In midfield, Ince is long past his sell-by date and Redknapp is a clever, classy player, but unable to impose himself as a playmaker, Batty will never really hack it (or perhaps will always hack!) and Anderton is too inconsistent. We should set our benchmark by Zidane and Petit.

At the back, the post-booze Adams has been superb, but Anelka ran him ragged in the second half - if the ball is at the feet of quick clever players, he ain't in the game. Benchmark - Desailly or Leboeuf. Le Saux is a disaster defensively. Seaman is as slow and sluggish now as we realised Shilton was, all too late in 1990, as that deflected German

free-kick flew over his head. I suggest we throw Joe Cole, Matt Jansen, Gareth Barry and Darren Huckerby in with Beckham, Scholes. Ferdinand, Owen et al for the next 18 months and let them mature. NIGEL CUBBAGE

Woodward relies on Wilkinson Quinnell provides

By Chris Hewett

amilar to what ly

NOW THAT the Boy Wooder has grown a few hairs on his chest, England consider him properly equipped to mix it with the grown-ups. Jonny Wilkinson, yet to emerge from his teens but making a very decent fist of life in the man's world of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, will attempt to solve two of his country's most pressing problems at Twickenham this weekend when he makes his first Five Nations start against Jim Telfer's buoyant band of Calcutta Cup-hunt-

Wilkinson fills the gaping hole in the red rose midfield by playing at inside centre - a big enough ask in itself, given that his immediate predecessors include Will Greenwood, the most influential fhreequarter in the country, and Phil de Glanville. the most astute defensive organiser in Britain. But there is more, far more. Newcastle's 19-year-old prodigy will also take over the goal-kicking duties from Matthew Dawson, whose occasional marksmanship just happened to earn England their famous victory over the world champions of South Africa 10 weeks ago.

"He's a talented player, Jonny, and he's in on merit," prooounced Clive Woodward, the England coach, as he revealed his hand yesterday. "As sooo as I knew both Greenwood and De Glanville were unfit, I put the inside centre position at the top of my priority list and set about watching the contenders. Jonny plays a good 60 per cent of his Premiership rugby in the role and his defence is very strong indeed. I also took into consideration the fact that there is less pressure at inside centre than at outside-half. In terms of his development, this will stand him in very good stead."

In reality, though, Wilkinson's promotion has more to do with putting the funny-shaped ball between the sticks than his ability to knock opposition centres into the middle of the next millennium, Woodward backed Dawson's kicking to the hilt before the Springbok Test but, although the gamble worked for and Fox and Rob Andrew were him on that occasion, it was workers. He has the right attinever the most convincing of ar- . . tude, the self-motivation to get ents. "It would have been asking a lot of Matt to do the job again," the coach conceded. It right." "Jonny's kicking was a big fac-



England's teenage centre Jonny Wilkinson takes an early look at Twickenham before Saturday's Calcutta Cup match against Scotland

According to Dave Alred, wrong His two kicking failures the specialist England coach who has worked closely with Wilkinson for three years, the new front-rank kicker has the potential to join the pantheon inhabited by the Ollie Campbells and Grant Foxes of rugby legend, "Is Jonny a natural kicker? There's no such thing in my book," be insisted. "Jonny is a worker just as Campbell out there on a wet Thursday

Eight months ago in Brisbane, Wilkinson got it very mined to make myself a better, Bracken, whose run of form at Underwood. In the other obvi-

against a rampant Wallaby side at the Suncorp Stadium did not exactly cost an embarrassingly haif-baked England side the Test - he would have needed to chip over a good few penalties to cancel out the 11 tries registered by the opposition in the course of a record 76-0 victory - but the experience rocked him to his very bones and he admitted be still has not watched the tape.

However, the misery of that humiliation set him on a learnnight and kick balls until he gets ing curve bordering on the vertical. "I came home from the stand-off and Dawson has been

stronger player. Yes, I was fearful that it would take an awful lot to get back into the England squad, but I've been given a hell of a lot more responsibility at Newcastle this season and it's worked out fine. My kicking is close to the 75 per cent success' rate and I have no fears about doing the job on Saturday."
His highly educated right

boot gives Woodward the chance to retain the half-back partnership that worked more then adequately against the Springboks, although Mike Catt has not been in the best of recent shape at

Saracens makes him the form scrum-haif in Europe, "Matt is fully aware how well Kyran is playing, but it would have been hard on the team to impose a change at scrum-half without really having to," said Woodward. "It's a position I have no problem with, except for the fact that I always have to tell one worldclass player that he isn't in the

line-up." Quite reasonably in the light of the Springbok triumph, Woodward has kept his changes only a single unenforced alteration, David Rees returning to southern bemisphere deter- feeling the beat from Kyran the right wing in place of Tony

ous area of choice, Nick Beal of Northamptoo continues as fullback over and above Matt. Perry, whose club form with Bath has been of the curate's egg variety. "In some areas, we've got strength coming out of our ears," said Woodward. It is now up to Wilkinson to add goal-kicking to that list.

ENGLAND (v Scotland, Five Nations' Championship, Twickenham, Saturday): N Beal (Northampton): D Rees (Sale), J Wilkinson (Newcastel), J Giscott (Bath), D Lager [Harlequins): M Catt (Bath), M Dawson (Northampton): J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill, D Garforth, M Johnson (all Lecester), T (Wasps, capt), R Hill (Saracens), N Back (Leicester), Replacements; K Bracken (Saracens), P Grayson (Northempton), M Perry (Bath), D Gremcock (Saracens), G Romntree

Quinnell some joy for Henry

BY CHRIS HEWETT

SOME YOU win, some you lose, some you struggle to work out. Graham Henry endured another complicated day on the Welsh selection froot yesterday; rejoicing in Craig Quinnell's return to full fitness while lamenting the withdrawal of the equally physical Jonathan Humphreys from his side to play Ireland at Wembley on Saturday. As for the tight head prop position... well, Henry is

still waiting on that one. News of Quinnell's recovery from knee trouble came as a relief to the national coach. The Richmond lock's bulk and ageressioo was missing against Scotland at Murrayfield 11 days ago, However, Humphreys' back condition, which now requires surgery, balanced the feel-good

factor with a splash of reality. Barry Williams, another Richmond forward and one of Martin Johnson's 1997 Lions', replaces Humphreys at hooker. His loose head will be Swansea's Darreo Morris, but the identity of his right-hand prop is still opeo to question.

David Young may yet recover from calf trouble in time, but Henry took the precaution of bracketing his name with Chris Anthony's.

The Irish selectors were also in tinkering mode yesterday, Jon Bell, who lasted less than a quarter of the opening Five Nations match with France, returns to the emerald midfield for Rob Henderson,

There are changes in the back row, too, where Eric Miller switches from blind-side flank to replace Victor Costello at No 8, while Dion O'Cuinneagain is joined on the flank by the

David Ashdown

'OMORROW

Chris Wyatt, the

Welsh lock, talks

about life in

the Dragons'

engine room

Ulsterman Andy Ward, WALES (v Ireland, Five National plombin, Wambier, Secondary): Si (Sale): M. Robinson (Swanses), N

Hill undone by false optimism

Hawking to work out that Richard Hill's tenure at Gloucester had become tenuous. The home defeat against Harlequins just accelerated the inevitable.

The board bad met last Thursday and had already decided that Hill had to go thereafter it was only a matter of time. And, after speaking to the club's owner Tom Walkinshaw, who was abroad on a skiing holiday, the Gloucester chairman, David Foyle, called Hill in on Monday to inform him of the decision.

Walkinshaw went off piste and flew in to Staverton airport to the north of Gloucester yesterday morning and at 9.30am addressed the whole of the playing and administrative staffs in person. According to one insider there was a collective sadness at Hill's departure, even though the rumour mills had been churning for weeks there was still an element of

When Hill took over the reins in October 1995 his task was straightforward, avoid relegation and keep Gloucester in the First Division. The former England and Bath scrum-half achieved that target by the narrowest of margins, the club finishing eighth out of 10 that season. There was no big spending budget so the following year (1996-1997) could be regarded as possibly Hill's best

IT DID not need a Stepheo Coach made fall guy as investment the decision to terminate his fail to pay off. By David Llewellyn

> since, with a limited amount to spend on players, be cootrived to move the club up to seventh place out of 12 and they equalled their Cup run of the previous year as well, reaching the semi-finals. As happened in Hill's first season when they met Bath in the last four, they lost - this time to Leicester the eventual winners.

At the end of that season Hill had a big clear-out. Players phose better days were well behind them were gently helped out. By this time Walkinshaw had bought into the club. paying an estimated £2.5m for

and so suddenly that Hill had what was regarded as the missing piece in the jigsaw, cash

with which to buy players. Hill is a canny man and he spent wisely and well. In came some remarkably good overseas players - Philippe Saint-André, Terry Fanolua and Richard Tombs - as well as other astute domestic buys.

Sadly, it made no difference. At the end of that season, having been dismissed in the fifth round of the Cup, they failed to improve on their position in the Premiership, once more finishing seventh out of 12. Therea 73 per cent share in April 1997, in lay one of the factors behind



contract.

At the start of this season Hill had told Walkinshaw to expect the club to finish in fourth place, the reality finds them ninth out of 14 with only an outside chance of reaching half-way.

Another of Hill'a big beadaches throughout his three and a bit years in charge was Gloucester's chronic homesickness. They just could not win enough matches away from Kingsholm to make a significant impact. In his time in charge Hill watched the Cherry and Whites lose 30 league matches in 38 trips away, winning seven and drawing one. It

was not good enough. Walkinshaw, though, did not incline to the view that the away form was the chief factor. He said: "Everyone has talked about the away games but it was only a matter of time before we slipped up at Kingsholm because we were struggling to hold on in the home games as well." It remains to be seen whether his successor, Saint-

André, can improve matters. Where Hill, who is involved with the England A squad, goes from here is unclear

their coaching staff.

Before joining Gloucester be was heavily involved with Bath, both as player and official, and it could be that Gloucester's fierce West Country rivals could find a place for him on

Hill: Spent wisely but recent results have been poor Healey apologises for stamping

AUSTIN HEALEY, the Leicester scrum-half issued a fulsome public apology last night for the stamping incident during the Allied Dunbar Premiership match against London Irish last weekend when his opposite number Kevin Putt suffered a head injury requiring stitches, writes David

Liewellvn. Healey was cited by the Exiles, Leicester have banned him for 21 days and the England player faces the possibility of an extension to that ban if the Rughy Football Union decide that the club punishment is

As it is he will miss England's two opening Five Nations matches against Scotland and Ireland and Leicester's Tetley's Bitter Cup quarter-final tie at Richmond next week.

Healey said yesterday: "Further to the hearing of the Leicester disciplinary committee I would like to express my deep regret at the incident. I wish to state that there was no malice or intent in my actions and I certainly did not wish to cause Kevin any injury. The moment I realised what had bappened I apologised to Kevin immediately.

"The TV evidence shows the with the news that David incident in a bad light and does Campbell, the former Falcons not portray what I truly believe to be an accident. I accept the findings of the Leicester committee and whilst it is very disappointing to be excluded from key Leicester and England games, I appreciate that I could perhaps have taken a better option in the moments imme-

diately prior to the incident. "I deeply regret the incident, but would like to say that I would never intentionally stand on anybody's face." The Newcastle takeover

director, has tabled a bid for Sir John Hall's 76 per cent shareholding, on behalf of a consortium of Tyneside businessmen. The Shareholders' Association, who have the remaining 24 per cent now have 30 days in which to match Campbell's bid, but that may be cut to 1 March.

That is the date the Newcastle directors Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall, son of Sir John, are believed to have told the Association that they will end their funding of the club unless saga has taken a further twist a new deal has been signed.

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Figuring out winners the Whitley way

Punters are turning to a Yorkshire-based computer analyst in the quest for winners. By Greg Wood

book which dropped through several hundred letterboxes last week is oot - if you will excuse the pun - the most obvipusly racey of reads. Computer Racing Form, an annual production by the organisation Racing Research, is an analysis of the 1998 Flat season, crunched into 467 pages of closely-printed names and numbers. Michael Crichtoo it is not.

To its devotees, however, the annual, and in particular the daily ratings and racecards produced by John Whitley, Racing Research's founder, are as essential a part of the process of betting as a pen and a blank slip. Whitley, a mathematics graduate, was an employee of Timeform for nine years, until he left in 1983 to develop his own ideas about handicapping and speed figures with the help of some serious computing power, in Brighouse, West Yorkshire.

Many punters believe that finding winners is an art rather stinct and emotion rather than cold analysis. Whitley begs to differ, "Our methods are entirely

THE THICK, smartly-bound British horseracing results, and a human with a pencil and programmes operate on top of this database, which in the case
The end results are speed this database, which in the case of jumpers goes back to 1993, to produce collateral form ratings as rapidly as possible. We do a complete re-handicap every day, usually overnight because the programmes take several hours to run, even on modern

> For those who struggle to set their video, a rough translation goes like this. Each day, Whit-

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Astrac Trio (Musselburgh 4.20) **NB: Salmon Breeze** (Folkestone 3.00)

ley feeds the results of every race in Britain into his computer. The machine then looks at what it already knows about the horses concerned, and all those that have raced against them since 1993, in the light of this new form. It then decides than a science, a matter of in- how relevant the information is - recent form, clearly, being more important than old - and reassesses its opinion of every objective," he says. "We have a horse in training accordingly.



Northern Starlight (centre) was a big-price winner for John Whitley's followers

available at 20-1, had a much stronger chance according to Racing Research than any of the other entries, including his better-fancied stablemate. Cyfor Malta. On the day, Northern Starlight won-Cyfor Malta

was a non-runner - at 15-2. Last Saturday's Tote Gold Trophy also looked very different to Whitley's subscribers. "According to our figures," he says, "Decoupage should have stance, they found that been the favourite, and

favourite) should not have been in the first three in the betting." Other subjects to come

under the cold scrutiny of Whitley's computer analysis are the effects of the draw and the reiative merits of jockeys. Kieren Fallon, for instance, was regularly rated among the best in the country, long before he became the champion jockey. Whitley though, is never en-

tirely happy with the numbers his computers give him. "My in-

Northern Starlight, who was Thutchev [the actual and red-hot terest is in developing the mathematical side of the sys-

terns," he says. "We add algorithms to the ones we already use, which improves the sophistication of what is already there." Racing and betting will never be an easy way to make a living, but for those who can afford it, Whitley's analysis at least ensures that they will walk into Tattersalls with several thousand pounds-worth of silicon on their side. Racing Research 01484710 979.

Bookmakers bet 'without Istabraq'

William Hill have issued betting on the Champion Hurdle without the hot favourite. The firm make French Holly, second to Istabraq at Leopardstown last Happy Change, 20-1 with the Tote, is owner The Winning Line's main Champion Hurdle hope. The ex-German Group Three winner makes his jumping debut in the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton a week tomorrow. The main aim of the same owners' Stretarez, also trained by Venetia Williams, is the Ormonde Stakes at Chester in May. He may not make his hurdling debut until the Champion Hurdle, at the Cheltenham

Festival next month. Meanwhile Hywel Davies, The Winning Line syndicate's manager, feels Saturday's Mitsubishi Shogun Ascot Chase, although over a trip - two miles and three furlongs and 110 yards - short of Teeton Mill's best, will be an ideal prep race for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Davies said: "He has had all his races this season won after two and a half miles." Teeton Mill tackles Direct Route, who is being prepared for the twomile Champion Chase.

Nicky Henderson yesterday again angrily refuted rumours that all was not well with Katarino, his Triumph Hurdle hope. Katarino has headed the betting on the four-year-old hurdlers' championship for some time, Henderson said:

The horse worked this morning and is fine. Last night, I

WITH ISTABRAQ odds-on, counted 26 calls about him, there is nothing wrong with the horse, ok?"

The trainer Len Lungo has warned he may withdraw Santa Concerto from Saturday's fourmonth, their 3-1 favourite. mile-one-furiong Eider Handicap Chase at Newcastle. He fears the going may be unsuit-able and is considering switching his Gold Cup entry to the Greenalls Chase at Haydock the following Saturday. It means both horses at the head of the handicap may miss the race, as Him Of Praise is also doubtful.

EIDER CHASE

	14	_	
Young Kenny	5-1	4-1	5-1
Sante Concerto	9-2	0-1	11-2
Peter	7-1	7-1	7-1
Hist Of Praise	0-1	9-1	9-1
Fall Of Oats	8-1	8-1	10-1
Hollybank Buck	9-1	10-1	19-1
Naughty Future	B-1	10-1	B-1
Fisked Outs	10-1	12-1	11-1
Parshandy	12-1	12-1	11-1
Jeffries	14-1	14-1	10-1
Feels Like Gold	18-1	12-1	18-1
Ottowa	20-1	16-1	20-1
Persons Boy	16-1	20-1	20-1
The Last Fling	16-1	20-1	12-1
Tough Test	20-1	14-1	12-1
Filmsy Troth	25-1	25-1	20-1
BaltyRna	25-1	33-1	25-1
Aly Daley	25-1	40-1	33-1
Simpoun	25-1	33-1	33-1
Kibby Bank	25-1	100-1	66-1

WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE

Three horses killed

THREE HORSES were killed at Sedgefield yesterday after a Club public relations officer, pile-up involving nine of the 15 said it was: "an horrific and runners in the 4.30, a novices' chase. Problems began at the issue has a higher priority with first fence when Joss Bay fell, bringing down Skane River and Sliema Creek, All three then ran loose in the opposite direction round the course until they collided with the rest of the field at the second last fence. Another six horses were brought down. Royal Scimitar was killed together with Floss The Boss and Skane River.

LEICESTER

Going' Chases Good to Soft (Good in places) Hurdles - Soft (Heavy patches)

G-croe 12 ran. 2"/- T. 7, 19, 18. (Winner chestnut gelong by Clantons out of Streets Ahead, flamed by F. Jordan at Leomaster for Bern-rapham Bloodstock). Teter: £440, £220. £130, £190. DF. £640. £25F. £1435.

Caner Language 2. (Winner bay gelding 7 ron. 11.9.2.1.2.): (Winner bay gelding 7 ron. 11.9.2.1.2.): (Winner bay gelding 7 ron. 11.9.2.1.2.): (Particles of Furny Lady, trained by 2 Nchrolson at temple Gutting for Mrs R J Skant Totels £250; £170, £190, DF; £560, CSF £657 Incast £3561, NR; Ivy Boy

EA4C CSF: S85.
4.50 (2m handicap hurdle)
1. WELSH MOUNTAINA S Smith 3-1 fev
2. Province Magae 100-30
3. Ring of Vision Magae 100-30
3. Ring of Vision Den Magae 100-30
3. Ring of Vision Den 20-1 Grate
1.0v (5th), 11-2 Messun Doro, 20-1 Grate
1.0v (5th), 11-2 Messun Doro, 20-1 Grate
1.0v (5th), 11-2 Messun Doro, 20-1 Grate
1.0v (8th), 11-2 Messun Doro, 20-1 Grate
1

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973

MUSSELBURGH 971

FOLKESTONE

WHAMPTON

John Maxse, the Jockey freak accident," adding: "no the Jockey Club than the safety of horse and rider, and if there are lessons to be learned from this accident, we will take them on board straight away." There will be a 7.30am inspection at Musselburgh today because of an expected heavy frast avernight

SEDGEFIELD

Going: Good

2.00: 1, MUTASARRIF (5 Meirose) 20-1; 2. Galindo 10-1; 3. Jarzab 11-1, 15 ram. 5-1 jt favs Monis (4th), Lindalana, 7, 5, (J Dodds, Ahrwick), Teles: 64230; 880, 653, 65200, 65200, 65200, 65200, 65200, 65200, 65200, 65200, 65200, 65200, 65200

inv; 2. Menshuar 8-1; 3. Lothian Communder 40-1 15 ran. 4 hd. (Mrs M Preveley, Salitum). Tote: 52.20; 51.40, 52.10, 510.50 pr; 56.20 CSF; 57.90 3.00; 1. GALDANUS (A Dobbin) 3-1; 2. Saxon Victory 4-1; 3. Karisms 7-1 15 ran. 9-4 tav. Johy Minster (Mh), 15, 21/. (Mrs Mernia Jones, Lambourn). Tote: 53.70; 51.50, 51.50, 52.50. DF; 59.90, CSF; 51.367. 3.30; 1. FATEHALKHAIR (C McCormack) 5-1; 2. Country Orchid 15-2; 3. Once More For Luck 8-1 12 ran. 7-2 tay Papua. 1/. 1/. (B Elson; Consett. Co Durham). Tote:

For Luck 8-1 12 ran, 7-2 fav Papua, 7, 17, (B. Elison, Consett, Co. Durham). Tote: E540; C2-20, C2-60, C2-60, DF: C480, CSF: E4123, Tricast: E27931, Trifecta: E244-50, 4.00: 1. BALLESWHIDDEN (L. Wyer) 3-1 fav; 2. Another Red 12-1; 3. Mose Pagement 9-2, 10 ran, 7, 13, (R. Fahey, Melton), Tote: E330; E170, C2-30, E2-20, DF: E26-50, CSF: E32-39.

Tricast 114309 4.30: 1. DISTANT NILLS (J Burke) 25-1: 2.

ASUCI DISTANCE WATER THE STATE OF THE STATE

13 ran. 6, 1% (T Easterby, Matton). Tote: £170; £100 £310, £570 DF: £640 CSF: £860.

Jackpot: Not won; £937455 carned forward

LINGFIELD

Going: Standard

2.10: 1. PACIFIC ALLIANCE (G Carter) 4-1.

2-10**, PACIFIC ALLIANCE (G Carrer) 4-1; 2. Lagend Falls 5-2; 3. Parts Prime 12-1 10 ran. 7-4 fav icenc (4th) 5. 1%, (R Arm-strong), Totes: 5640; C150, C100, C100, DF-55.70 CSF; EM53, MR; Caldus Seventeen, 2-40: 1, NAUTICAL WARNING (N Doy) 25-1; 2. Homestoad 8-1; 3. Without Friends 10-1 12 ran. 5-2 law Critical Ax 2.8 (B. Ichterson)

2. Homestead 8-1; 3. Without Friends 10-1 12 ran. 5-2 lay Criocal Ar. 2. 8 (B. Johnson). Tota: C1660; E230. C340, E470. DF: C12500 CSF. C19712. Tricest: C200934 3.10: 1. VAN GURP (J. Quint) 11-4 tay; 2.

1240; 1270; 1270; 12300; DF; 12780; CSF; 12381; Theast; 124538; 4.40; 1, HUROILL DANCER (P Doe) 11-2; 2. Rushed 25-1; 3. Haydn James 11-4 fav. 13 ras. 174. hd. (R O'Sulfvan); Toile: 12760; 12200; 12400; 1150 DF; 1210750; CSF; 121805.

FIRST SHOW

WOLVERHAMPTON 3.10

talan Synghory 4-1 7-2 3-1 7-2 7-2

CHarry 51 51 92 92 51 Adalphi Boy 112 112 84 112 51

Cassy Cleo 11-2 11-2 7-1 5-1 6-1

Godgegsbass Pk 9-1 8-1 7-1 9-1 8-1

GRT Of Gold 9-1 9-1 10-1 10-1 8-1

Integrineedie 6-1 13-1 3-1 8-1 11-1

Cool Secret 12-1 10-1 10-1 12-1 12-1

Reducatable 8-1 E-1 14-1 12-1 12-1

Dim Ots 14-1 15-1 15-1 15-1 14-1 Pps Song 12-1 15-1 15-1 20-1 15-1

Eachway a fith the odds, places 1, 2, 3

C Coral M Wilson Hill L Ladbroins, 5 Stories 7 Tox

CHLS

Placenot: £362.50 Quadrot: £870.

Wolverhampton today scapot: £703.70. Ouadpot: £18.40. sca 6: £262.82. Place 5: £31.86.

Hunter chase pointers will appear tomorrow

FOLKESTONE

and form ratings for every run

by every horse, which are then supplied to Whitley's clients in

the form of racecards, for a fee

varying from £6 to £3 per meet-

ing depending on the length of

your subscription. Some of his

clients have taken every race-

card since Racing Research

ial for people who are already

racing experts," he says. "We

don't say there's anything mag-

ical about them. They are a

starting point before taking

into account all the usual so-

phistications which relate to

tions such as distance, going

and track must still be borne in

mind. Nor, this being racing, are

there any guarantees. There

are, however, many racing pro-

fessionals - including book-

makers - who always turn to

Whitley's ratings before they

open the form book. At the

five-day stage before the

Tripleprint Gold Cup at Chel-

tenham in December, for in-

3.30 Below The Salt

In other words, considera-

"We look at it as raw mater-

was founded 15 years ago.

2.00 Running Man (nb)
4.00 Takeamemo
4.30 Springfarm Rath
5.00 Liste Rouge

GOING: Chase - Good to Soft, Hurdles - Soft,

Bight-hand, undulating course with a run-in of one furiong.

Course is 6m W of fown off A20, Wastenhanger station (service from London, Charing Crose) adjoint course. ADMISSION: Cub & Tathersalis Str.; Picric Park 54 per carplus 54 per occupant. Accompanied under 15s free. CAR PARIC Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: J. Gifford 13-47 (194%), 00 orbital 11-86 (157%), N Handerson 10-28 (35.7%), M Pipe 7-32 (219%), Mrs 0 Hakre 8-22 (27.3%), R Rowe 6-68 (35%),

LEADING JOCKEYS: N Wittenson 13-65 (23.8%), M A Fitzgerald 11-55 (20%), A P McCoy 9-52 (17.3%), P Hide 9-60 (15%), R Durnvoody 8-44 (12.2%), B Ferston 7-48 (14.5%),

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Tellion (visored, 200), Dealting Investor (visored, 230), Charden (visored, 430), Springfarms Rath (430).

2.00 BURMARSH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,854

1	21	ARCTIC FANCY (30) (O) (Cool Customers) J G Smyth-Othourie & 11 9	æ
2	FM	FILTERING MAN (FF) (11) (No C A Vision) P R Wictor 5 11 9	d
ā	0-0	BARAN ITSU (20) OF H Williams K Burker 5 11 3	'n
4		COASTGUARDS HERO (P11) (U Novemen) B Pource 5 11 3 M Bulcivelor	
5		DOC RYAN'S (F78) & J Flach) M Pren 5 11 3	
В	60-P	ELVIS (45) (The Chap Quarted L West 5 11 3	×
7	0-	GEORDIE LAD (P398) (Miles Place Pertnership) M Bradstock 5 ft 3	'n
Ò		JEAN PIEPER (25) OF D Burnetty J Barries 6 to 3	
Š	PP	MORE FUN (USA) (13) (M C Barks) M Barks B 11 3 M Fliche	
10	4	PARRIEDUD (28) (Crusers III) Mrs AE Johnson 5 11 3	2
π		SLEPNIR (369) (Mrs John Gried II Grissel 8 11 3 J R Karren	
2	0F20	TELLICH (30) (Come Racing Ltd) J Jerkins 5 ft 3	ď
18		THE BOREEN STALKER (Life Dece) L. A.Deco & 11 3	E
14		WHERE'S ALBERT (P259 U Danels) J R Politon 4 107	
		44-4-4-4	

BETTING: 8-11 Rooming Man, 7-2 Rhelabold, 9-2 Arciic Ferroy, 12-1 Doc Ryen's, 14-1 Bellon, 25-1 More Fun, 33-1 others 1990: No corresponding meeting

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Arctic Pancy: Form of Plumpton 7 langths win over Ayem looking suspect, with the subsequent defeat of numer-up. Plenty to find but open to improvement.
Rusning Mant: Form pick on 22 langths Musselburgh 2m nov win over subsequent wither 25 Go. but disappointing 22 langths 4th to Rendo in good company at Weitzerby 2m nou good) since. Looks the one to beat
Baram itsu: Well-beaten hot layouts for a Kempton bumper last February and tailed off behind All Gong on Doncaster hundles debut test month.
Cossiguante Hero: Tailed off two novice hundle starts before distant 6th to Bretache in seller over CAIL Little obvious chance.
Doc Ryser's: Moderate winning middle-distance handcapper on Plat. Pit from the All-Weather and worth a check in the market
Elvius: Showed a Rittle ability in bumpers but tailed off only hundles start.
Jean Pierre: Prominent early, but tailed off when pulled up 2 out behind Gernstone on hundingdon debut (2m nov, soft)
More Pun; Formerly fair Plat performer up to trind in France for Criquetta Head. No sign of ability in two hundles starts
Shelmblock Winning middle-distance handcapper on Flat. Promising debut when 8
langths 4th to Gernstone at Huntingdon (2m nov, soft) but will need above-average
improvement to figure here. Suited by soft ground on the Flat
Stelphill: 33-1 chance and beaten 60 lengths on debut in Lingfield bumper
Taillon: Placed at up to mild on Flat and showed promise when beaten 4 lengths
by Gladateur IV at Lingfield last month but possibly feeting the effects of his hard
race when running bedry behind Arctic Fancy at Plumpton. Viscored now
The Borese Statisct. Son of Borese malong belated debut
WERDICT: This should be one-way traffic, with RURWING MAN at the head of aftens. It has been an one-way traffic, with RURWING MAN at the head of aftens. It has been an one-way traffic, with RURWING MAN at the head of aftens. It has been an one-way traffic, with RURWING MAN at the head of aftens. It has been an one-way traffic, with RURWING MAN at the head

VERDICT: This should be one-way traffic, with RURNING MAN at the head of af-ters, if he lives up to his Musselburgh promise back on an easy surface. The den-ger may be Rheinbold, who showed promise at Hurtingdom but has a fair way to go to justify his Supreme Novices' Hurdle entry at Chellerham.

2 20 NEWCHURCH MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900

ľ	2.30	added 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value £3,057	_,,
ŀ	1 /120-4	CONCHOBOR (85) (BF) (Scott Herdy Permershot K Balley 7 11 8	N Witherson
н	2 FO	DASHING INVADER (USA) (2) (D L Williams) D Williams & TI 8	B CENTOR V
1 :	3	SCO WARRIOR (The Spider Partnersho) D Murray Smith 6 11 8	D Gullagher
L	4 5	HENRY CANDO (40) (Uplands Bloodstock) S Sharwood 8 11 8	G Brader
1	5 0-		W Marston
L	50P-13	JOHNSTON'S ART (5) (Helplesh Pacing) R Buckler 8 11 8	
L:	7	LIGHT REFLECTIONS (F212) (Mes J Collect) P Murphy 8 Tt 8	1. Aurosi
L	8 65/3	LONGSTONE LAD (15) (G F Edwards) G Edwards 7 11 8	MARROWAL
L	9 05	NICELY RELAXED (123) (8 T Sewart-Brown) O Sherwood 6 11 8	I Daheare
1	10 P-0	PALATIAL VIEW (71) (Kruss-Benford-Walker-Moore) R Curts 7 11 8	Jimeh
ı,	11 00	SHAH (19) (Peter Kalsell, D Nicholeon 8 11 B	R Thursday
		SMOKEY ROSOT (21) (Coldnatour Record) Mass S Edwards 8 11 8	Mr N Febru (7)
		THE HILL HAS MOVED (13) (HR C Carbonocco) P Hobbs 8 11 8	E Democrate
	14 00-0	VERDI EDITION (20) (F.H. Willers) K. Burke 5 71 8	S Emdon
		BRANSCOMBE (89) (Automater Carpets Lad Mrs P Dutheid 6 71 3.	P Holley

2144, Tricast 53692. 4.10: 1. BOLD EFFORT (R Cochrane) 441; 2. Multarrab 2.1 tay. 3. Double-0 20.1. 9 ran, 4.1/2. (K Curringham-Brown). Tota: 7:240; 5270, ETD. 5300, DF: 57780, CSF: 53881, Tricast: 5459.38 FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Conchobor: Dual bumper wirner, Warm favourite but jumped poorly when 35 lengths 4th to True Mission on Worcester hundles debut (2m heavy). Probably capable of better but stable out of form and 6 weeks without a winner.

Deshing Invader: Ex-pointer, Welf bester in bad thereford delener on Monday.

Eso Warrior: Be My Native getting, making represented debut.

Henry Cando: Benderly handled when 35 lengths 5th to Mithak on hundles debut at budlow (2m51, soft). From a good family and open to improvement. Herbiashised: Market drifter when 10 lengths 7th of 15 to Luggey on Worcester bumper debut for Graham McCourt in Sept. First run for new yard Johnston's Art: Lived up to bumper promise when staying on 24 lengths 3rd to Master Pligrim at Fontwell (2m21 nov, soft) on hundles debut. Should be suited by this extra 41 and Besty to play leading role.

Light Reflections: Son of Reinbow Quest making hundles debut. Little sign of ability on Flat.

ity on Flat
Longstone Lad: Promise of better to come when 23 lengths 3rd of 12 to Storm Castie on Tauriton jumps debut (3m nov, good to soft), following long lay-off
Nicely Retaxed: Brother to smart Berude Not To. Weak in market, but promise of
better things when 16 lengths 5th of 16 to Lord Noelle on jumps debut at Stratford
Caroli nov, good). Should not be for ewey
Patatial View: Ex-point-to-points. Not disgraced in Huntindon bumper in Dec and
worth a check in the market.

worth a check in the market:

Shaht: 50-1 chance when 43 lengths 12th of 17 to All Gong on Donnaster hurties debut (2m4 nov. good). Little obvious chance

Smokay Robot: Looked snort of pace when plodding on to be 24 lengths 3rd to Ardent Cliver at Lingfield (2m7 nov. heavy) and makes little appeal.

The Hill Has Allowed: Point-to-point experience before series of good bumper afforts, including Towcester win over Liniyan. Sure to be well schooled.

Verall Edition: No sign of ability in bumpers or over hurties.

Bratescomba: Buckstain mare making hurdles debut. Hind ability in bumpers.

River Diamond: Winning point-to-pointer. Prominent early but tailed off from 8th when distant 8th of 12 to Stopcart on Fontwell hurdles debut (2m5), soft).

VERDICT: This longer trip should bring out the best in Johnston's Art and Nice-ly Relaxed, but THE HILL MAS MOVED appeals as the most. Busy winner, he is unlucky not to come here with a double under his best, and with the benefit of point-to-point experience in relaind has better cradertable than most hurdes newcorners. Conchobor, who has a fair reputation, looks the pick of the remainder.

3.00 TVYCHURCH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,250 added

HARDING COS (C) (D) (S P Tindul) S Malor 8 11 10
PEPAREUS (USA) (19) (CD) (Min David Backburry PR Welcher & 1) To
SALMON BREEZE (ST) (CD) (Salmon Partnership) N Herclerson 8 11 10 M A Fitzge
ATOURS (F481) (The Rose Permentic) Mas A M Neuron-Smith 11 11 4 E Byros
BANGOR ERRES ST (The Chap Queries) L Wells 8 11 4
BURBLES CALCRE (57) Eastwell Manor Recircle TO Montality 8 114
KENTISH BARD (22) (Mrs Gorden Pepper) N Guesties 7 Tl 4
KING'S WASSPER (204 (3 A Hattard) G Hattard 6 11 4 J Tito
MONTROE (11) (D) (Mass Marrel Turnelly R Richard 7 1) 4
ROYAL HAVEN (20) IA D Weley J Griod 8 11 4 LA
TAKE MY 580E (50) (560 Roberts) M J Roberts 7 11 4

BETTBIG: 9-4 Salmon Breeze, 7-2 Montron, 6-1 Harding, 10-1 Atours, Take My Side, 12-1 Kenthali Bard, Riparius, Royal Raven, 18-1 King's Whisper, 25-1 others FORM GUIDE

Harding: Useful staying hurder 3 seesons ago. Overcame outly mistake for winning chase clobut here fast month (2m nov hoap, soft). Open to improvement and should Ripertus: Series of moderate efforts before tucky 9 lengths win over Super Settion

over course and distunctions. Self jumper, but looks fairly well exposed: Selmon Breeze: Unlucky not to follow up impressive Towosster chase debut win when, clear last, unseated rider in race won by Dunger Flynn at Fakenham (3rn novice chase). formally a black lancer and 5000 Atours: Former top-light hurder for David Eleventh. First outing since menious injury in 1995 and making chase debut. Market the best guide

ved a little ability until falling at hellway in rece won by Jocies Cross at Fortwel (3m2f nov ch, soft). Up against it Bubbles Galore: Left distant 3rd when Salmon Breeze fell at the last at Fakenham. Sim prospects in this tougher race

Kentilah Bard: Falling short of expectations over tences and little improvement when National basic Planty and a specularian over inside and successful with detaint 3rd to Ever Bleased at Chepsoow (2m7) makers, orbit latest King's Whisper: Son of Kings Ride. Where and placed twice in four kish point-topoints. From a good chasing yard and worth a check in the market Montroe: Failing to live up to last season's hurdle promise but promising chesing disbut when staying on 25 lengths 2nd to Tresor De Mei at Longfield (2m, heavy). Back over hundes since but every chance here Royal Revent Ascot novice hundle with

Rayel Reven: Accot novice hurdle wither in 1996, Should Improve on chasing debut 30 lengths 4th to Andaucphi at Wincanton, but looks up against it Tiske My Side: Purning consistently in modest company, but planty to find on lat-est 11 lengths 3rd to Indian Pun at Plumpton (2m5/ Incap ch. Incavy)

VERDICT: This signify shorter trip should suit SALMON BREEZE, who was com-ing to the end of his tester when unseasing his rider after shaking off a decent field over 3m at Peletriham. He jumping is usually sound and it should give him the edge over the less experienced Montroe – likely to benefit from the longer bip ~ and Hard-ling, who has the makings of a useful handlespee.

3.30 BILSINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,250 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £1,953

034-45 METELENA (103) DT IS A Hickord O Hickord 9 11 10 -0P254 SOPHE MAY (22) (C) (D) (J Dunisk) Dentsh Morrs 8 11 9...... -54800 RDYAL ARCTIC (85) (D) (T D J Syder) 8 Mellor 9 11 9...... OUTS SELOW THE SALT (15) UL Durbot J Durbo B 11 8 .. FROM BILLMONATE (12) U.S. Court D. C'Brist & TI D.

3-000a CHEEF PREDATOR (12) (No Why No Feed Syndicate) D Williams 5 109 ... A P McCoy Y (22304 THE MRNDER (FR) (15) (S Exwests) G Edwards 2 10 8 ... M A Plagearid B P-3014 TOPANSA (23) (C) (Miler Pace Racing Cité) M Braistock 7 10 5 ... R Sudholme (9) B (00523 SUMMER FLOWER (12) (BF) (Berry Ward) Miss Z Devision 9 10 8 ... D Callingher 5-27 P COME OR BLISH (75) (D) (SF) (Three Hossehous Cité) J Upson 6 10 2 ... B Supple (5) 60629 HARDY BREEZE (20) (Ms John Grief) D Granel 6 10 1 ... B 10 Callingher 100-4 J Mc ALFARAJ (98) (Ms John Grief) D Granel 6 10 1 ... L Aspell (2200 SURPRISE GUNNER (89) (N P Vigar) Mis M Jones 9 10 0 ... T J Murphy (R-00) GREENSTOE CHAT (20) (Lufe Duo) L A Dace 9 10 0 ... Mr R Fornistal (5) -17 declared -

Minimum weight, 10st. True handkop weights: Yek Allers! But 13th, Surprise Gunner 9st 10th, Greenstde Chat, Night Three Bet 20.

BETTHYC: 8-1 Toperigs, 13-3 Meritens, 7-1 Before The Salt, 6-1 Supreme Troglodyte, Chief Prede-tor, Sophile May, Illuminate, 10-7 Come On Elish, 12-1 Yak Affarel, 14-1 Royal Ancilc, Exact, The

FORM GUIDE

Startlene: Despicining over tences. Returned to hundes when 6th of 8 to Papa Krients mit at Untimeter (2"/mit, soft) in November and first run since then ring as Unicensis (2 min, son) or revival our area test test across sent. Sophie May: Best with some give in the ground, 2th lower than when 2nd to Sorbiare over 2 f/m hars in December, but stable out of farm Royal Arctice Springer in the market when talled off at Kempton (3m, soft) leet month. Soon off the bridle and though well handicapped is one to leave alone. Soon at the set First syn of form when \$2' / length and to Sopcari at Fontwell (2" im, soft) lest month. First run in a handicap and chance in week event sort less motern erret run in a nanocap and crance in week event.
Sepreme Troglodyte: Novice hunder, 2nd to Artic Ground on reappearance in De-dember, Falled to confirm that promise when tailed off over 2m51 next time.

Iliuminate: Easy when at Lingfield (2m3), soft) 12 days ago, with Chief Predator, now 14th better in, 18 lengths in 4th. More to do off an 8th higher mark. has shown signs of temperament and has acquired blinkers

has shown agms on temperament and has acquired pametrs.

Chief Predaton: Booking of McCoy agnificant, though going against him (has won twice on feet ground). Well handcapped and dropped 8th since lest run.

The Minden: Saves his best for Taumton (yet to win away from there). Well hand-capped on old form and probably more affective back over this shorter trip. capped on Sit form are processy mare ensemble but the to the are processy. Topsings: Course writer over 2mtl (heavy) last month, 4th off a 7th higher mark here next time and back on winning mark, though form looks moderate. Summer Florest: Only selling class, evens best at 2m and wedlened 2 out when 5th (beaten 36% lengths) to Shootk here (2mtl, heavy) last month. Come On Effect, Maiden hurds winner at Kneester (2mtl, orth in November, Randers of the November, when without the best to before the last. bady here (21/m, soft) next time when pulled up before the last Hardy Breeze: Novice furtier, pulled up over fances last time and tailed off after 3 Out when 5th to Select here (21/m, heavy) over hurdles last month
The Bargeman at Existent When 4th to The Bargeman at Existent

(CY-m. good) in October. Hard to tarray efter a 14-week leyoff Suprise Gusner: Novice hand/cap hurder, taked off 3 runs this assison, including when tast of 8 to Whispering Court (Come On Eish 3rd) over 2m in November Greenside Chat: Maiden hurder, lightly raced last S seasons and unpleced at 11 starts and talled off lest of 6 in a seller here (24 m, heavy) last m Night Tyne: No form in novice hurdles. Did not appear to stay 21/m when tailed off

twice here in December, Stable have not had a wirmer for over 10 months VERDICT: Meritans should be happier back over trudes after a disappointing shall in chases and is 7th lower than when second to Mon Amie last season. He lack of a recent outing is against his and fony McCoy's mount Chief Predator would be in with a bright chance if the ground third out overright. However, it may still be too soft for him and SUPHEME TROGLODYTE, talked off lest time after metang a promising reappearance at Warwick, is worth another chance in a trappy event.

4.00 THREE COUNTIES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 edded 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,245

-7 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Teleparatron, 3-1 Shoofk, 7-2 Eden Heighte, 5-1 Roderick Hudson, 7-1 Hot in Saucy

FORM GUIDE

Shootic course and distancewhear from Turnii House following Linglishid 2m win from Tickerty's Gift. Struggling from new mark when 10 lengths 4th to Equity's Darling at Lingfield lest time and 2lb higher here. Best on heavy ground Takeamente: Every chance on 10 lengths win over Nordensk at Fontwell (2m2f) from 7th lower, but ran body at Plumpton latest and said to have wind problem Edan Heightts: Has not really progressed from 9 lengths debut 2nd to Mersey Best at Windsor, despite placings at Ludow and Lingfeld, Handicap debut mot Bangor and Perth wirmer in 1996. Sidelined since 44 lengths 7th to Ivorts Plutter at Windoor 16 months ago Shepherds Rest: Winner from 8th higher at Lingfield in December, 1996 but running

for the moment derlick Hudson: Southwell meden hurdle winner in July, 1997. First hurdles out-

ing for 16 months, but running respectably on Al-Waather and McCoy booked Hot 'N Saucy: Signs of improvement when 2 lengths 3rd to Indian Jockey on Herese in October, but sidelined since, Best on sound surface

VERDICT: It may be worth taking a chance on TAKEAMEMO, who looked on the upgrade at Fontwell, but was halted by the very demanding conditions at Plump-ton. She is well handicapped on her best form. Shepherde Rest falls into the same category, but is capable of taking a hand in this moderate line-up at his best.

4.30 R. E. SASSOON MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,400 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £1,075

- 4 declared BETTRIC: 11-8 Titus Andronicus, 4-1 lifr Invader, 9-2 Springterm Rails, Sheer Ability, 6-1 Charmer's

FORM GUIDE

lift invador: Handicap chase winner and first outing since May, 1997. Stays well (has won over 3/m) and partnered by an experienced ameters.

Charden: Hunter-chase winner in 1985, but tailed off 3 out when distant 5th to Tipping Along on reappearance at Larkhill (3m, good to soft) lest month. Visored first time and rider would not be the most competent around

thermor's Wett: Lightly raced handicap hurder and first run over lences since un-seating rider at the first in 3m h'cap chase at Ascot in 1995. Rider one of this season's leading amateurs

Sheer Ability: One-time useful chaser. Fell 3rd on reappearance at Ampton last month. Still capable of being placed in hunter-chases, but will need to find an easier one then this to win

Springfarm Rath: Ran in 4 hish point-to-points lost season and dead-heated for 1st place with Hoolby Skint in malden at Lennymore (soft) in May. Will find this a great

onicus: Had a successful sesson in points lest year, winning 7 times from 9 outings. Disappointing favourite when only 5th to Arctic Chill on his reeppearance at Tweseldown (Sm., good to soft) lest month, but should come on for the run

VERDICT: Although TITUS ANDRONICUS was soon struggling after halfway on his seasonal debut in a point-to-point lest month he is entitled to another chance against this company. He was most impressive when beating subsequent hunter-chase winner Broad Sreane six lengths at Mollington in March.

5.00 LEVY BOARD INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (H) £1,750 added 2m 1f 110yds Penelty Value £1,420

32 BRUCKIUM (BLEN (RU) (WES OF ALL HARD IT DEALER BY IT A J Obborns
5 DROMEDDRAM (20) (F.J Higges) P.R. Wester 6 11 4 J Obborns
LISTE ROUSE (BSA) (Cherton Bloodisck Lich) R. Alber 6 11 4 A. P. McCop
STYX (J Dougsil) O Sterwood 5 11 4 J Obborns
C2- DREAMINGTON ROVERS (279) (T.H. Oursley) J Jenteis 5 10 13 M.A. Fizgerald
CASTLE HILL (The Unicom Partnersho) O Other 4 10 B. M. Balathelor (S. Marches)

Mill Balathelor (S. Marches)

Mill Balathelor (S. Marches)

Mill Balathelor (S. Marches)

Mill Balathelor (S. Marches) NOAH (RH York) R York 4 10 6. - 10 declared -

BETTING: 11-8 Drowdoran, 11-4 Liste Rouge, 4-1 Styr., 0-4 Brocition Glen, 10-1 Jeneki, Drewn Ington Rovers, 20-1 Cestin Hill, 33-1 Nosh, Boring Goring, 50-1 Mollycarrabrekiest FORM GUIDE

Boring Goring: Unraced Aristocracy gelding out of a Militoritaine mere Brockton Gien: Placed both outings in bumpers. Beaten 26 lengths when 2nd to Abelvino at Towoester (2m, heavy) last month with Mollycarrisbrekfast talled off 5th and would have to improve on that effort and would make to improve or their smooth.

Dromadorant: Easy to back (16-1 from 6-1) when promising 3rd of 21 behind Devills.

Advocate on his debut at Huntingdon (2m, soft) last month, Jamie Osborne takes

over this time and will be hard to beat Liste Rouge: Unraced Red Rensom gelding out of a Going Straight mere. Flat race pedigree and booking of Yony McCoy looks agrificant

Gong at Pakenham (2m. good) in May and first run since then

Moltycarrabrektast: Weeked 3f out when distant 5th of B to Abelvino on her debut at Towcester (2m, heavy) last month and held by Brockton Glen (3rd) Nozir: Unraced Baron Blakeney gelding out of an Arctic Kanda

races, however, and OROMDORAN, who shaped well on his first outing as Huntingdon lest month when third to Chettenham prospect Devits Advocate, has a great deal less

BO give

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Styn: Unraced Over The River golding out of a Brave Invader mare.

Drawnington Rovers: Beaten 14 lengths when 2nd to subsequent useful hunder All

Castle Hitl: Unraced Caringford Castle golding out of an Upper Case mere
Jenski: Unraced Petoski golding out of a River Kraght mare

VERDICT: Liste Rouge looks the one to keep an eye on as Robert Alner has booked Tony McCoy for his Flat-bred newcomer, who cost 865,000 as a yearing and is a half-brother to a middle distance winner in the USA. Experience counts in these (April 1921)

Mary Thomas Congression

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Without Soldini turns the saviour in heavy seas

when making a record attempt across the Atlantic last year, yesterday turned rescuer himself, sailing 200 miles in heavy winds and seas to come to the aid of a fellow competitor in distress.

It was the second time the top French solo yachtswoman Isabelle Autissier has had to be plucked from her upturned yacht, this time in the remote southern Pacific, between New Zealand and Cape Horn on the third leg of the Around Alooe Race from Auckland to Punta del Este, Uruguay.

In 1994 the Australian Navy came to Autissier's aid when she was dismasted and sinking when leading the second leg of the same race from Cape Town to Sydney. Yesterday the pinpoint accuracy of her position beacon enabled Soldini to find her in the dark. In what was described by the race organisers in Charleston, South Carolina, as "a masterful, heroic act of offshore seamanship", there was raft. an immediate echo of the way

BY STUART ALEXANDER

went back to take Frenchman Raphel Dinelli off his upturned yacht over Christmas in the 1996 single-handed Vendée Globe.

The causes of Autissier's latest problems were unclear last night. Only a brief message had been received from Soldini, who had been using a 25-mile range radar to close in on Autissier in the final stages. That confirmed that Autissier was safely aboard Soldini's 60ft Fila and continuing the race to the tip of South America still 1,900 miles away. There were no reports of any injury. It is believed that Autissier's yacht, PRB, in which she had been overall leader had been abandoned.

Earlier, when Autissier activated her distress beacons, a brief message had been received saying that she had capsized. But it was oot known whether she was rescued from her yacht or was already in a life

Part of Autissier's good forin which Britain's Pete Goss tune was also that Soldini was John Martin in 1990-91.

relatively quick

The new overall leader, Marc Thiercelin, said he was unable to turn back as mast problems would make sailing upwind dangerous. It leaves just Thiercelin and Soldini in Class 1 after Britain's Josh Hall also retired on this leg after being dismasted and the leg one winner, Mike Golding, never made the start of leg three after running aground less than 200 miles from the finish of leg two in Auckland

As well as expressing hope that she would be safely rescued, the remaining Briton in the race, Mike Garside in the Class II 50-footer Magellan Alpha, said he was glad his leading trio, of which he lies second, was also close together to help each other in time of trouble. Twice previously Around Alone competitors have had to rescue each other on leg three, the Englishman Richard Broadhead picking up the Frenchman Jacques de Roux in 1982-3 and South Africa's Bertie Reed res-



Isabelle Antissier is wished well by the man who was to rescue her, Giovanni Soldini, before the third leg of the Around Alone Race Allsport

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HBO give Hamed chance to win back fans Clarke enjoys 'best win'

NASEEM HAMED is being backed to finally win over American audiences after signing a six-fight deal with cable television network Home Box Office.

has purchased the worldwide television rights for Hamed's fights over the next two years. or December. while Sky Box Office will show the fights in this country.

The first broadcast will be Hamed's 12th defence of his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title against Paul Atlantic City last October.

BOXING

Ingle in Manchester on April 10. Hamed's following two fights will be in the United States, the HBO yesterday announced it second in the summer and probably in Las Vegas or New York and the third in November It will provide an acid test of

Hamed's popularity in the US following the cold reception to his points defeat of Northern Ireland's Wayne McCullough in

"When you add up all of his career after a rocky patch. deals he will be the equivalent of any major sports figure in America," said Kerry Davis, HBO's director of programming.

The Ingle fight will be Hamed's first since leaving promoter Frank Warren and trainer Brendan Ingle. Hamed, 24, is now being managed by his brother Riath, with Barry Hearn handling the Ingle fight.

Lou DiBella, senior vicepresident of HBO, claimed the deal will help stabilise Hamed's compact, more skilful and an

"Naseem's primary financial arrangement for television will be handled by us," he said. "To a large extent we have cut out

happy today."
The undefeated WBO champion was equally delighted today with his new training regime under American Oscar Suarez. "I'm becoming a new fighter. I'm gonna be more

a lot of reasons to be very

even stronger and harder fighter," said Hamed.

"Tve got a new trainer who's shown me new stuff. I've been doing the same stuff for 17 years the middle man. I think Naz has and won 31 fights with it. Now I'm training harder than ever."

The Hamed team see the Ingle bout as a stepping stone towards featherweight unification. "I want to beat the best," said Hamed. "I want to unify my weight class. Fighters love the belts. We want them wrapped around us."

DARREN CLARKE reckons he

was due a change of huck after a succession of personal proband this victory will be a wellems and last night his patience was rewarded when he landed "the best win" of his career with a 5-1 defeat of Steve Davis in the £370,000 Scottish Open at Aberdeen.

"Hopefully this will be a stepping stone to something better," added the world No 87. Clarke proved an insurmountable obstacle to the out-of-touch the six-

come boost as he continues his recovery after a serious motorway accident in 1997. The 28year-old qualifier suffered badly damaged nerve endings in his neckalter a wheel flew off a trailer and struck his car.

"I could have an operation to try and correct the problem but I've been advised the success rate is only 60-40. If it goes times world champion, Davis, wrong I might not walk again

so I've decided not to bother." he said.

Not even Davis' safety-first tactics could prevent a downfall that once again threatens his long run in the top 16. "It wasn't a bad day at the office, it was worse than that," groaned the 41-year-old provisional world number 15.

Davis made the highest break of the match - 55 in frame three - but missed many easy balls be would have potted wearing a blindfold at his peak.

CRICKET

England A win by one wicket

over, Read scrambled two leg-

byes off the first ball, then an-

other off the next. Then Cosker

pushed the third ball towards

mid-oo. The the throw hit the

umpire and the batsmen and

Zambobwe A mon ito ZiMBARWE A

ZIMBABWE A
C B Wishart c Read b Thomas
T N Madondo c Windows b Thomas

Needing four off the last

BY MARK HARGREAVES

Zimbabwe A 262

England A 263-9

MUSSELBURGH

HYPERION 1.50 Master Tern 2.20 Charmwood Jack 2.50 Kierchem 3.20 Danbys Gorse 3.50 Flighty Leader 4.20 Astrac Trio 4.50 Regal Island INSPECTION: T-30em

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

| Right-hand ovel course with tight turns.
| Course is 5m E of Edinburgh on A1 Bus this from Edinburgh station 5m. ADMISSION: Club £12; Grandstand & Paddock £7 (APs and unemployed £4). Accompanied under-life free, CAR FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

III LEADING TRAINERS: M Hammond 22-118 (86%), J H Johnson 20-116 (72%), P Monteith 18-80 (175%), C Parker 9-56 (155%), III LEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobble 18-13 (175%), P Carberry 5-53 (28.3%), P Niven 13-71 (83.3%), S Sorrey 12-139 (8.5%), III FAVOURITES: 15 wins in 284 reces (40.5%), LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Zahid (220) & Charille Benker D FIRST TIME: Madman's Mirage (150), William Of

Orange (3.50), Better Bythe Glass (4.20). 1.50 TOM MCCONNELL MEMORIAL HURDLE

(CLASS D) £4,000 added 4YO 2m

Tankid, 12-1 Stage Whisper, 50-1 others

FDRM VERDICT Micky Hammond has hish import tasked entered for the Triumph Hurdle but, though the stable seems to be returning to form, he is passed over in favour of the experience of ALERIGHTON and Mester Term. The former, also a Triumph hopeful, has to concede 7to but his proven ability on a firmigh surface series him preference.

WOLVERHAMPTON

2.10 Port Meadow 2.40 Manileno 3.10 C-Harry

3.40 Grasslandik 4.10 Loughaniea 4.40

GOING: Standard STALLS: 71 & 1m8! - outside; rest - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low to middle best for 7t.

FAVOURITES: 478 was in 1,479 races (32,3%).

Perenco of sand, but can be regarded as potential threats. Free-dom Queet has shown AW form, but is vulnerable to the juniors.

Fibrasand, left-hand, oval course.

Course is N of town on A449. Wolverha

Copper Shell

2.20 ANDERSON STRATHERN NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (D) 55,250 added 2m

20/554 ZAHID (57) (0) K Burler 8 10 5 R Johnson 30245 STONESBY (48) G M Moore 7 10 2 Callegher

parasome Bat 12th, Chamwood Jack, hite QI Rhum 9st 7th, Falcon's Flame Bat

BETTING: T-2 Rossel, 4-1 Zahld, 9-2 Stonesby, 5-1 Palcoc's Passe, 8-1 Up For Researce, Charmetod Jack, 10-1 En-Jay-Bee, Silver Peerl, 25-1

FORM VERDICT

A race where very few can be relied on to produce that best at present. Zahld has possibilities, white Falcon's Planne (though still wireless after 22 attempts) can be given a squaek if his most recent run can be believed. However, ROSSEL is the stoid call his scoresistent, salted by conditions, and will find today's opposition far less taking then the company he has kept of tale.

2.50 DICK VETERINARY E E4,000 2m DICK VETERINARY COLLEGE FYC 2002 -3/823 LINION TOWN (166) (SIF) V Thumpson 5 II 10.Mr M Thompson

— 11 declared — BETTING: 11-4 Dozens Way, 9-2 Union Town, Klarchen, 6-1 Bernard Seven, 7-1 Bit O Magic, Pleaning Gain, 10-1 Priddy Fair, 25-1 others

An uninspring burch, the majority exter out of form and/or returning from lengthy lay-offs. Bit O Magic will run well, but perhaps not well enough to meater DORANS WAY. The latter tends to make the odd error but will be suited by conditions and can make it three wins from lour attempts this seeson.

FORM VERDICT

3.20 J.R. MCNNAIR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 3m

-SUM DAMEYS GORSE (15) (C) J.M. Jofferson 7 II 10.T Stocket (5) B 53392 SALEM BEACH (15) (CD) M Todrunis T II 1 C McCormeck (5) 4-5522 GALE FORCE (46) P Beautrori 5 10 12 _____ B Gratter (3) 3-222 SANTA JET (25) (0) (87) G M Moore 6 10 9 _____ Categories

-5 declared -Advaum weight: 10st. Tue bandlesp weight: Browneth king Set 70. BETTING: 11-4 Sente Jet, 3-1 Selson Beach, 4-1 Darbys Gorse, Gele Force, 16-1 Caraptosaurus, 12-1 Maybe O'Grady, Brownrath King, 20-1 German

-SUDES GERMAN LEGEND (9 (D) D Lamb 8 10 1 ... Mr.J Crowley (5)

FORM VERDICT

The top lour in the handicap hold the key to what looks a learnlyall boast sold form, but in GALE FORCE they could face a rivel who is nicely availed. He ran a fine race at Catherick and, with the Becurrent team going so well now, further improvement is a dis-

3.50 RAMBLING RIVER NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 24,500 added 3m

- 10 declared -- 10 declared -Minerum weight: 10s. The handlop weight: She's All Houri Bat Sib. BETTING: 3-1 Donas's Decoup, 4-1 Fighty Leeder, 9-2 Charlie Banksr, 5-1 Golden Thursderboll, T-1 Sherdadis, 8-1 William Cf Overage, 10-1 Ph tors Haza, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT Take CHARLE BANKER to prove too strong for some very limit. ed rivals. He boasts two good efforts from his lesi three and gives The strong impression that firms miles round a steep track like this could auit him very well indeed.

4.20 FIFE HUNT CLUB HUNTERS' CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 3m

Joint Account, Satin Lover, Craig Burn, 10-1 Across The Card, 66-1 others FORM VERDICT

COOLE ABBEY looked to have a good knure had season and could wet be a lot better than some of the againg apposition he meets today. Satin Lover is the danger but he was bester in both his races under Rules last agency and is likely to structile activist Cools

4.50 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW DPEN NH FLAT RACE (H) \$2,000 2m

FORM VERDICT

BLUE MOON can really well when theid in what looks a hot race over this course and distance on his debut (winner Mr Lemb was bought for 125,000 guinees subsequently and second has hacked up since) and it would be a big surprise if he were not good enoug gidley. The newcomers to weach are Prince Sandrovitich and Guar

FORM VERDICT

piSPOL CLAN, most artractively weighted with Trojan Girl on last season's form, goes well over this C&D and showed her turn is not fix easily again when namonly beaten in a selfar here-last week. The biggest threat could be Grasslandfik who has continued on the upgrade since landing a velling race touch on his debut last year.

4.10 LILY SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 52,500 added 3YO 6f

FORM VERDICT

JUST FOR YOU JANE has had planty of chances both with and without bankers, but ran well amough in a claimer on this surface at Southwell lest mornt to suggest she retains arough ability and archivales in to win a race like this. Loughtankea is a threat on his good effort behind Baron de Pichon at Southwell.

4.40 ROSE APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handisep weights: Mysterium 7st 8th, United /os: 70 BETTING:7-4 Copper Shell, 7-2 Opera Butt, 4-1 Neuthart, 9-2 Nikita's Star, 10-1 Andaman, 16-1 Unitus, 20-1 River Junction, 25-1 Mysterium

Preference is for COPPER SHELL, who is holding his form well deeplies a rise in the handicap and whose Southwell conquent Dick Turpin was not disgressed in defect on Monday.

England A win against the odds

ENGLAND A fought back to win an astonishing first match in the one-day series at the Queens Club after they had appeared to be coming second for almost the entire contest. A fine all-round performance

from Andrew Flintoff and a mature 70 from Vikram Solanki saw England home with one wicket and three balls to spare. For the first time on the tour, Michael Vaughan lost the toss and and saw Zimbabwe make a steady start on a splendid batting pitch. An enterprising fourth-wicket England were home.

partnership between Dirk Viljoen (73) and Stuart Carlisle (80) produced 112 runs in 19 overs, but the rest of the line-up provided little resistance with the exception of Craig Evans' breezy 30 from 20 balls. In reply England lost wick-ets steadily and when Graeme

liding in midwicket with Solanki England were 156 for 6 with 13 overs remaining. Solanki then took charge, putting on 66 in nine overs with Paul Franks before the latter was controversially run out after he gave the charge to

Swann was run out after col-

a oo-ball. Thomas was bowled in the same over, and Solanki's innings ended in the next, so Dean Cosker came in to join Chris Read with 25 needed off 19 balls and one wicket in hand.

C B Wishart c Read b Phomas

IT N Madorado c Windows b Thomas

IT N Madorado c Windows b Thomas

IS G I Whittail t Windows b Phomas

IS P Vilipen C Solania b Maddy

IS V Carlesie c and b Maddy

IS V Carlesie c and b Maddy

IS V Carlesie c and b Maddy

IS O R Evens b Filmoff

A M Bilgraut not out

A M Bilgraut not out

IS B Brett not out

Is Bertal (ASA overs)

IS B Brett not out

Is Bertal (ASA overs)

IS B Brett not out

Is Bertal (ASA overs)

IS Bowling Franks B-0-45-0; Thomas A-0-43-; Moddy 9-0-54-3; Filmoft B 4-1-30-3; Cosser 10-0-51-0, Swann 6-0-34-0

I Maddy 9-0-54-3; Filmoft B A-1-30-3; Cosser 10-0-51-0, Swann 6-0-34-0

I Maddy C Wintell B Bilgnall

IS B Loye c Evans b Mackay

A Fantol s Madorado b Pexco b

IS M G N Windows rine out

IS Solania c Evans b Whittail

IS P J Franks run out

IS I Transe b Whittail

IS I Transe Transe I Whittail

IS I Transe Transe I Whittail

IS I Transe Transe I Whittail

IS I Transe I Whittail II Whittail

IS I Transe I Whittail II Whittail II Whittail

IS I Transe I Whittail II Whitta 7homas b Whitfalf... M W Read not out D A Cosker not out 14
Extrac (04 f6 iv3 nb4) 17
Fotal(f6r 9, 49.3 every) 263
Fatt 1-0.2-61 3-71 4-114 5-136 6-156 7-722
8-224 9-738

8-224 9-738 Sowling: Bignaut 7-1-29-1, MacKay 10-0-37-1, Whitpall 8-3-1-55-2, Brent 8-0-30-0, Ewars 3-0-18-0, Peacock 8-0-48-1, Wilcon 5-0-36-0 Unspires: C Coventry and K Kanjee. Pakistan rescued by determined Moin

A BATTLING 70 by Moin Khan Pakistan 185 rescued Pakistan from a pitiful first-innings total yesterday after Javagal Srinath, the Indian seamer, ripped through their top order on the first day over. of the opening match in the maugural three-nation Asian Test championship.

Pakistan were 26 for 6 after an hour of play, but recovered to make 185 all out. India, in reply, were 26 for 1 at the close. After Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, had won the toss

and elected to bat, Srinath, in tandem with Venkatesh Prasad, removed the top six batsmen in 41 balls. Srinath, who finished with against Pakistan, started the

India 26-1

collapse when he had Shahid Afridi caught behind in the third

Prasad dismissed Saeed Anwar for a duck and Wajahatullah Wasti, while Srinath took the wickets of liaz Ahmed. Yousuf Youhanna, and Azhar

Mahmood in quick succession. Moin and Salim Malik then staged the recovery, adding 84 runs for the seventh wicket. Malik was out for 32 immediately after tea, before Moin fell to Sachin Tendulkar's spin. Wasim then hit an aggressive 38 to give

5 for 46, his best performance Pakistan a reasonable total. Scoreboard, Digest, page 27

2.10 DAFFODIL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 1m 1f 79yds LS ABSOLUTE MAJORITY (22) B Curisy 4 8 12 J P Spencer (3) 3
44002 FREEDOM QUEST (16) (8F) B Rothwell 4 9 12 R Lappin 10
44002 FREEDOM QUEST (16) (8F) B Rothwell 4 9 12 R Lappin 10
5 FOULA (196) C Thoman 4 9 12 Deen Meldacent 6
6 FOULA (196) C Thoman 4 9 12 Deen Meldacent 7
30000 FROTOR MAN (520) J Bernet 5 9 12 Deen Meldacent 7
74 FREE AND FOST (125) M Dots 4 8 7 Deen Charles (7) B
54 MOSQUERO (195) J Gosden 3 8 5 Cheryl Nossocitly (7) B
55 MOSQUERO (195) J Gosden 3 8 5 T Sprate 9
66 FORT MEADOW (107) R Charlen 3 8 5 Deen Sprate 9
67 ROYAL MEASURE (25) B R Milman 3 8 5 D Spacency 1
68 Gosten 1 BETTING: 5-6 Masquero, 7-2 Freedord Quest, 4-1 Port Mandow, 13-2 Defect. 25-7 Port Mandows, 13-2 Port Mandows, ford, 25-1 Royal Measure, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT MOSQUERO showed enough on turf as a uversite to suggest he should land a Fibresand mades provided he handles the surface. Port Meedow and Duttord are others who lack ex-

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: None

2.40 TULIP CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £2,750 added 1m 6f 166yds 1-ONE PRINCE DANKIG (18) (C) D M STATE 696_1 P Spencer (5) 3

8 AD-04 FULL MOON (11) W Brisbourne 4 8 1 ______ A Santh 1 - 8 declared -

BETTING: 15-6 Manileno, 3-1 Prince Denzig, 4-1 Internous, 5-1 Erezio Rafa, 8-1 Moneco Gald, 12-1 Alberaine, 18-1 Full Moon, 25-1 Lobuste FORM VERDICT

ulieno is the clear pick on term and on official ratings, but his trainer has stated he does not go so well on the track as the does at Southwell and was sufficiently unconvinced by his success over 2m here this month to threaten handgest next time. which has not malenelised. Perhaps it is worth taking him on with MONACO GOLD, who shaped like a certain future winner on his responsance after a lengthy absence. He possibly found the rece coming too soon when deeppointing behind Evezio Rurio and infamous in a seller here next time.

■ Course is N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station 1m. ADMISSION: Club C15. Tattersale 28 (£2 off for OAP members of Diamond Club); Restaurant package prices £1750 to £35.95 including course entrance and medi. CAR PARIX: free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS.
■ (EADING TRAINERS: R* Hollinahead 69-570 (121%), N Litmoden 49-360 (133%), M Johnston 47-242 (184%), P Evans 40-397 (101%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: S Senders 43-311 (136%), Daen McK-90wn 38-304 (125%), J Wenver 34-200 (17%), O Holland 31-133 (233%).
■ FAVOLIBRITES: 478 wine in 1470 made (19.3%). 3.10 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 71

040-10 COOL SECRET (4) K Barks 48 1 _______F Norion 2 5046-6 GET OF GOLD (7) (7) A Beiry 488 ______A Maday 7 -02044 GODALERSHAM PARK (9) (C) (D) P Felgate 7 80 _

- 11 declared -Minimum weight. 7st 10th. True handicap weight: C-Harry 7st 8th. agrammer supers. As the Symphony, S-T C-Herry, 11-2 Adelphil Boy, S-1 Clau-SETTING: 7-2 Italian Symphony, S-T C-Herry, 11-2 Adelphil Boy, S-1 Clau-su Clea, S-1 Godovardam Park, S-1 Tarascheedle, Git Of Gold, 12-1 Cool Secret, Redoubtable, 16-1 Dim Ots, Pipe Song

FORM VERDICT Classy Cleor. AW witner at Linglield and Southwell, but out-paced 2f out when 3rd to Flying Officer and Adelphi Boy here (iii) lest morth. Bough task on 15th worse terms with the 2nd Threadneedler Has won 4 times on the AW at Lingfield. Selow he best when 8th of 17 here (mn1/5) lest morth and 2th bes-ter in for 1/2 length with Italian Symphony (8th) Italian Symphony; Most consistent on the AW. Has never won off as likely a mark as this by 4th lower from when 1/2 length tes in our is required with reason symptomy devil fastion Symphony; thost consistent on the AM. Has never won off as high a mark as this, but 4b lower than when 'i- length 2nd to Westmen's Weigh here (m'//i) last week Dim Ots: AW debut. Acts on any going on burl and only 3b higher than when woming at Kempton (St. heavy) in April, but first race since October 10 Adelphi Boy; Has won 3 trace over 51 on AW. Looked as If he would stay fartise when shyd in Flynn Officat bare (St) last

Adelphi Boyr, Has won 3 traes over 51 on AW. Looked as if he would stay farther when 2nd to Flying Officer here (61) last morth and is 15th better in with Classy Cao (51d). Pipe Song: Won medden over C2D in April and creditable efforts in hicsps since. First race since August when slowly eway and soon behand when 8th of 10 here (61) this month. Cool Secret: Won claimer on AW debut at Southwell (61) this month. Soon in rear and struggling when 14th of 15 behind Alamsin at Lingfield (7f) on Saturdey.

Gift Of Gold: Winner on turk yet to show much on AW. First run since October when interes on the runs with staying on one

Sitt Of Gold: Winner on turf, yet to show much on AW. First run since October when outpaced in rear until staying on one pace winn title of a Buthries at Lingfleid (7) in December Godmensham Parts Successful 4 times on AW last year, in-pacing over time the pack in the after running over time from the pack in the after running over time. Redoubtable: Well handscapped on old form, though has not won June. Last 2 runs have been over 81, but before effort over time when 3rd to Melomenia at Lingfleid this month. C-Harry: Mas won 8 times here, a times over this distance, in fine form at the moment in claimers. Won of a 3b higher mark home in 1997 and can make his experience of this surface to VERDICCT. More of times have all the win sour this distance. VERDICT: Most of these have still to win over the distance and though C-HARRY is the higher than when recording his fourth course and distance success in December, he has held his form in claimers here and at Southwell since then. Dim Ota appeals as a likely outsider.

3.40 FREESIA HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,500 added 3YO 5f

FORM VERDICT

Football: United and Arsenal meetings have an underlying mood of aggression that often escalates into violence

Belligerent night at Old Trafford Kanu is ready for

BY GUY HODGSON

ALEX FERGUSON strayed into his private thoughts and "off the record" territory last month it was to Arsenal he headed "Belligerent" was how he described last year's Double winners, a twinedged accusation if ever there

No team which contains the spiky talents of Roy Keane and Nicky Butt can be labelled supine so the Manchester United manager was also wandering among pots and kettles. Winners are belligerent and both Ferguson's team and Arsenal have their fair share of what are euphemistically called

Amid this smokescreen of accusation, Ferguson did put his finger on one fact. When United meet Arsenal there is an underlying mood of aggression and frequently it escalates into violence. If tonight's Premiership meeting at Old Trafford included a sending- off no one would be surprised.

The strange thing is the supporters of both clubs have reserved their utmost loathing for nearer targets, Liverpool and Tottenham, Meanwhile, the players and the managers have been training their sights on each other.

The managers clearly are not bosom buddies, an atmosphere that began when Arsène Weager criticised Ferguson's perennial moan about fixture congestion in his first season at Highbury, but the players go back much further.

The teams have a history of antipathy. You could return to the Sixties and examine the seething hile that would erupt whenever Denis Law and Ian Ure laid eyes on each other Gronically they would later become team-mates at Old Trafford) but that is archeological. There are more pertinent and recent relics of rancour

Only Tony Adams remains from the Arsenal team which surrendered a 17-game unbeaten run at Old Trafford in January 1987, a game in which David Rocastle was sent off and six players were booked - and those were times when cautions were not showered like confetti by referees.

The traditions have been taken up by their successors. In scuffle in the Highbury tunnel in the aftermath of an explosive FA Cup tie lost 2-1 by United last-minute penalty into the

Nigel Winterburn had angered the United players that made a two-footed tackle which night with over-the-top celebrations and it probably was not a coincidence that the Arsenal full-back was to the fore at the came involved. Even now



volving the clubs in October

A 21-man brawl broke out during the Gunners' 1-0 win at racism allegations. Old Trafford (only David Sea-man failed to get involved) and as a consequence Arsenal were deducted two points and United one. Both clubs were also fined £50,000 by the Football Association and warned about their future conduct.

Matters simmered rather controversial evening at High- with only 10 men, Butt being bury - until three years ago when lingering hostility became embodied in Peter late tackle by the striker anafter Brian McClair blazed a gered the Dane, who was later accused of making racist comments by Wright.

Later in the season Wright Ferguson called "a disgrace" and the FA and the Professional Foothallers' Association be-

most notorious of incidents in- Schmeichel will not talk about Sunday Times last month, for either incident although friends have let it be known he was very upset about the

Tensions heightened since

last season when Arsenal beat United home and away en route to their first title since their point-penalised season of 1990-91 and were not soothed at Highbury in September when the latter produced their worst performance of the seathan flared - although Eric son, going down 3-0. Not for the Cantona was sent off on one first time the visitors ended

Tonight's game is unlikely to be less aggressive because Schmeichel and Ian Wright. A both clubs regard the other as the most likely to stop them winning the championship this season. "If you finish above Manchester United you will win the League," Tony Adams said last week, while Ferguson fears Arsenal if only because "they now know what it takes

to win the title". Ferguson's comments to the which he has since apologised, will have thrown a match into the acetylene. "I'll tell you what they do," he said, "and I've spoken to other managers about this and they all agree. When Arsenal are not doing well in a game they turn it into a battle to try to make the op-

position lose concentration. "They do that all the time. The number of fights involving Arsenal is more than Wimbledon in their heyday."

Ferguson said those comments were off the record although, pertinently, he did not unlikely event of Wenger needing to fire up his troops this evening then pinning the above to the dressing-room wall would be as good a way as

And if the game is won by a controversial goal this evening? Both managers will contact the FA and insist the game is replayed. And hell will start advertising skiing holidays.



Kanu is United baptism

BY BILL PIERCE

MARC OVERMARS last night backed the Nigerian Nwankwo Kanu to handle the pressure of making his Premiership debut against Arsenal's main title rivals Manchester United tonight.

Overmars and Kanu were the men involved in Arsenal's controversial FA Cup fifthround "winning' goal" against Sheffield United on Saturday. Although both players have apologised for breaking the unwritten law of sportsmanship in combining to score Arsenal's second goal against the Blades, they can expect a rough reception from the Old Trafford

"It will not be a problem," Overmars said. "Kanu and I both know we did not mean to do something wrong. It was purely a reflex reaction and it took about 20 seconds to realise what had happened."

Overmars believes Kanu, who looks set to replace the suspended Dennis Bergkamp in possibly the most defining match of the title campaign so far, will be a bandful for United - who include Jaap Stam, the Arsenal winger's Netherlands team-mate. "I played for two years in Holland with Kanu for Ajax and he is a big, big talent." said Overmars. "People over here who perhaps do not know too much about him will soon see how good he is."

Though Emmanuel Petit is suspended, the Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, has his captain, Tony Adams, and fullback Lee Dixon back from the head injuries they sustained in England's defeat against France last week, but Martin Keown is still out with hamstring trouble. Stephen Hughes looks set to deputise for Petit after Remi Garde damaged an ankle in Saturday's Cup tie.

The Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, has ruled Ryan Giggs out of his plans even though he is nearing full recovery from his hamstring injury. Denis Irwin is Ferguson's biggest concern. The Republic of Ireland fullback has a groin injury so Philic Neville is standing by. Roy Keane and Paul Scholes have given United a boost as they return to the squad after each serving a one-match ban.

Meanwhile, United have signed 17-year-old Bojand Jordic on a four-year contract after the Swedish youngster was spotted playing for Bromma-Pojakarna, a lower-league side from the Stockholm area.

Dublin plays through pain Phillips hopes

DION DUBLIN will go through the pain barrier to try to put Aston Villa's Premiership title challenge back on course, but his manager, John Gregory, may yet force the striker to have surgery which could keep him out of the game for several weeks.

Dublin will ignore a troublesome groin problem to lead Villa's attack in the absence of Stan Collymore against Leeds

Gregory admits that the performances of his £5.75m signing from Coventry have been badly affected by the injury. He says that instant surgery would be the best option even though Dublin is willing to delay going under the surgeon's knife until the end of the campaign.

"Dion is not doing himself justice," Gregory said. "He's had rest and missed a couple of games hut it hasn't cured the

he cannot do any more damage to than be has done aircady. He's having to play with the injury. It is a bit uncomfortable and you can see his lack of movement.

"He should play tomorrow. We will strap him up. He's desperate to get on the pitch and is willing to try and get through to the end of the season without having surgery.

"But he is not doing himself justice and if it becomes too unbearable and causes him too much embarrassment then we will bave to make the decisinn for him to have surgery.

"If he does have to have surgery he could be out for several weeks but it might turn out to be the best option for him even though we are a little

Paul Merson and Gareth look on their faces after our last Southgate will return for couple of results. Gregory as they aim to bounce This is the first hiccup I've had in my 12 months in charge back from successive defeats at

the hands of Newcastle and and I'm disappointed to have slipped out of the top three but Southgate has been troubled it is not as if we are mile adrift. by a hip complaint which forced We think we are going into his withdrawal from the Engthe last part of the season still land squad to face France last as serious title contenders." week while Merson was ruled

Gregory admitted: "It is out of the same international probably a good thing for us that we are going to be up against Gregory said: "I don't think one of the in-form sides because there is too much wrong and in that will bring the best out of the last match against Blackburn we played well and

"In all honesty I couldn't give a monkey's what it looks like tomorrow night providing created chances but paid for a We need a win now to give we get the three points to get us a lift and a bit more self-belief. back into the promotion race." Gregory revealed that Colly-Two or three wins now and we

more will not return to Villa "We are not too despondent from his stress counselling for another 10 days and that makes it even more urgent for Dublin

keep giving good performances

and keep winning." Dennis Wise starts his latest ban against Blackburn, He was sent off for the fourth time this season in the FA Cup fourthround replay win against Oxford.

Eddie Newton, Bernard Lambourde, Andy Myers and Mark Nicholls are all added to Saturday's squad, while Morris is likely to continue in midfield. The England Under-21 international has no intention of

stepping aside for any of his more illustrious team-mates. Morris told Chelsea Club-Call: "I'm definitely a better player than I was this time last year. Off the pitch I've matured, and that's reflected in my

to stand tall

Kevin Phillips is hoping to strike another blow for the little man as his side returns to Worthington Cup semi-final action tonight.

The 5ft 7in striker saw Tony Cottee - just an inch taller - give Leicester a 2-1 first-leg lead at The Stadium of Light last month with two instinctive finishes.

While the former Watford player knows that his side are the underdogs he is determined to disprove the assertion that big is necessarily beautiful. "Tony Cottee is the sort of player I look up to," said

Phillips without a hint of irony. "Since I've been in the North-east, people have mentioned me in the same hracket and as the same sort of player. If I can achieve what he's achieved in his career then I'll be more than happy.

"It just goes to show that not everyone has to be six foot to succeed. Tony's a great role model for the smaller lads."

Phillips, who missed three months of the current season with a toe injury, has nevertheless reached double figures after his 35-goal contribution in

Bristol City on Saturday took him to II but he knows he will be facing one of the more formidable defences at at Filbert Street. "Matt Elliott, Steve Walsh and Gerry Taggart are the three biggest centre-halves I've ever played against," he

"We ve got big men up front in Niall Quinn and Danny Dichio, if he plays, so we can challenge them, but they're

THE SUNDERLAND striker BY MARK PIERSON

They've also got two good central midfield players and Emile Heskey and Cottee up front, who were a different class on the night up here. But if we can keep them out then we stand a good chance."

Gavin McCann's late goal allowed the First Division leaders to just about keep the tie alive and Phillips is confident that Martin O'Neill's men can expect a tough battle. "We've given ourselves a chance and we'll go there and enjoy it," he

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, acknowledges that Leicester are favourites to reach the final, but refuses to write off his side's chances of reaching the final at Wembley next month.

"We have to go to Leicester with a positive attitude, but I know my players are up for it and you never know what can happen," he said

"Leicester are a good footballing side and they have a positive manager but they might freeze in front of their own supporters.

"I think we have played quite His late penalty winner at well against three Premiership clubs in cup competitions this season. We were unlucky at Blackburn in the FA Cup and while Leicester probably deserved their first-leg win, we are not out of it."

> Sunderland have bounced back from three successive defeats, albeit two to Premiership clubs, to take maximum points from games against Swindon and Bristol City to consolidate their position at the top of the First Division.



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even though a few pundits who said we weren't going to stay at the top have got a bit of a smug restricted in who we can select

JODY MORRIS expects a tough Chelsea meet Blackburn at Stamford Bridge tonight. The midfielder has established himself in Giantuca Vialli's squad and is looking forward to pitting his wits against Brian Kidd's resurgent team.

Chelsea have slipped out of their fluent early-season form, but Morris feels Saturday's 1-0 FA Cup win at Sheffield Wednesday may give them the right tonic as the season enters its crucial final stages. "I thought we played really well on Saturday, and the manager was really buzzing after the game." said 20-year-old Morris.

us believe that. Blackburn are second in the League and alive Premiership battle when a tough team. They can play a on two cup fronts. The Hillsphysical game, but I think there are enough players in our team known for their physical attributes as well and I'm confident we can come away with something from the game."

Vialli's team have stumbled since topping the Premiership and now have to claw back ground on Manchester United. Long-term injuries to Gustavo Poyet, Pierluigi Casiraghi and Tore Andre Flo and the transfer of Brian Laudrup have not helped matters.

Vialli has been the first to acknowledge loss of form but the Italian has seen his team grind "Hopefully we've turned the out points while playing indifcorner after a bad patch. All of ferently. As a result Chelsea are

borough win booked a place in the last eight of the FA Cup, and the Blues continue the defence of their European Cup-Winners' Cup crown next month.

Fixtures will come thick and fast over the coming months, and Vialli knows the hectic end of season can catch clubs out. "We like to play well, but it's not easy because of the fixture schedule." he said. "It's nice to see that after a

with a back problem.

couple of individual errors.

are right back in the hunt.

few poor games we are now playing well. This is the way we would like to play. But it's not always possible because you play so many matches in England. But we hope from now to

Mellor argues to preserve status quo

DAVID MELLOR, the former Tory MP who is now the chairman of the Football Task Force, explained to a court yesterday the raison d'être of Six O Six, the Radio Five Live football phone-in he hosts on Saturday evenings. "We try to make journeys a shade less wearisome,"

SIAWAND

PRANTE

CAHON

The statement seemed especially apt as Mellor proceeded to turn two hours of evidence in what has essentially been a dull journey - through a maze strewn with legal wranglings about contracts for televised football - into something FOOTBALL

BY NICK HARRIS

considerably less wearisome. Using his platform as the supporters' friend ("I have my own views, but not out of line with fans' opinions") and his practiced skills as an advocate, he imposed his larger than life personality onto the proceedings.

"Where is all this going?" he asked on several occasions, affecting a bluster in the face of protracted cross-examination questions. "I've answered the

wait to get to what he considered the core issue of the case. By the time he stepped down from the stand at around 12.30pm, there were whispers in the press gallery along the lines of "if this'd been a boxing match, it would've been abandoned for the safety of Mellor's

The opponent in question was Geoffrey Vos, QC, representing the Office of Fair Trading in its case against the Premier League, Sky TV and

already." be appealed at another point to the Judge, Mr right to negotiate television to the Judge, Mr right to negotiate television club was a closed shop. "Open valuable for the game is the added: "I place more confi-Justice Ferris, as if he could not deals collectively on behalf of its 20 clubs. Mellor, called as witness for the League, was there of mauling his inquisitor. to argue why the status quo was the best way to maintain football's current good fortune.

Having confirmed he had been an MP for 12 years, a minister for nine and the chairman of the Task Force since August. 1997, Mellor had also furnished the court with the information that be pays £2,500 per season for his executive season ticket at Chelsea. "It's like the Ritz," be said, denying that access to the

to everyone, you know." And then he got down to the business

"People don't like to be criticised," Mellor said of the OFT when Vos suggested that a Task Force report - overseen by Mellor - bad been biased in suggesting an OFT win in the case would harm football. "And when they are, they say those being critical don't know what

they're talking about." He said football had a right to maximise its income. "What is valuable for the purchasers

money that the sale of television rights brings in." he said. Clubs such as Leicester, which currently receives around £6.5m per season - around 38 per cent of its total income - from television, would lose out in a freefor-all, Mellor said. Clubs such

as Leicester, he said, meant

every club except a small élite. When challenged by Vos that television income could still be fairly redistributed if individual deals were introduced, Mellor replied: "That is a presentational refuge point you've taken

dence in the central direction of the Premier League than the individual goodwill of the clubs.

When asked to concede that individual sale of rights would at least lead to competition, Mellor replied: "It's not called competition. It's called nonsense. What is the value of something everybody's got?"

Mellor did concede that Sky's dominance in the football market might perhaps lead to inflated prices for televised football, but he added: "If prop-

have the best of both worlds." At the time of the next rights' negotiations, he said, the Premier League could insert a price ceiling in any deal with broadcasters. To tamper with a system that appeared to be working well as it was seemed foolish, if not dangerous, he added. "You could bring the temple down on people's heads when it simply needs some reroofing," he concluded. Having brought the house down himself, he made his exit. The case

Wardon Kenwright is backed by Smith

THE EVERTON manager, Walter Smith, has backed Bill Kenwright's bid to buy the

The theatre impresario is fronting a consortium to buy out the holder of the major shareholder Peter Johnson. A bid of around £50m is on the table and it is thought Johnson is on the brink of accepting the offer for turn to his native South Amer-

"It's important that the takeover situation is resolved and I would be pleased to see Bill gain control of the club if he could," said Smith, who yesterday completed the signing of Hearts' Scottish World Cup defender David Welr. "I think it's important for everyone here that this situation is cleared up and all the uncertainty is fin-

Don Hutchison's long wait for International recognition from Scotland is about to end with his first senior call from the manager, Craig Brown. Everton's Hutchison, one of Smith's rare success stories this season, has impressed Brown duty against Bosnia and the Czech Republic in Euro 2000 qualifiers next month.

Liverpool have contacted the Football Association to ask for the red card Jamie Carragher received at Charlton on Saturday to be reconsidered. Carragher was sent off by the Birmingham referee Mike Reed following a clash with Chariton's Martin Pringle during the Londoners' 1-0 victory at The Valley.

14-day appeal deadline to disfine and three-match suspension for his training-ground at- League.

that their Chilean defender Javier Margas had not gone Awol. The club's chief executive, Peter Storrie, says they gave their blessing for Margas to reshortly before Christmas.

ager, Joe Royle, has taken the captaincy from Jamie Pollock in the wake of his third sending-off of the season at Bournemouth on Saturday. Pollock, who faces a three-match ban, was also sent off in August and September.

Southampton have signed the 22-year-old striker Marian Pahars from the Latvian champions, Skonto Riga, for a re-ported £300,000 and are now

Rovers owner Ken Richardson has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association following his conviction for conspiracy to commit arson. Richardson was convicted at Sheffield Crown Court last year for his part in the plot Wimbledon have missed the to burn down Doncaster's stand. He has parted company pute John Hartson's £20,000 with the club since their

tack on his former West Ham team-mate, Eyal Berkovic. West Ham insisted yesterday

Premiership strugglers

waiting for a work permit.

debut for Celtic yesterday - and marked it with a goal. The Australian striker, who controversially returned home before signing for the Scottish champions, was on target as an overage player for the under-21 team who played Motherwell.

relegation from the Football

Mark Viduka finally made his-

BY KIERAN DALEY

The former Doncaster

just under half of his 68 per cent ica for a cartilage operation The Manchester City man-

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY took HOCKEY BY BILL COLWILL

Keynes National Stadium as a at Milton Keynes dress rehearsal for next month's Varsity match at the Cambridge University venue. It is doubtful, bowever, Army that they will find the Oxford defence as charitable as they did students and were just beginning to get back into the game when Adam Laird snatched an the Army's in their 5-3 victory

in an action-packed and enterimprobable opening goal in the The soldiers had survived a eighth minute. furious opening salvo from the The former Dark Blue strik-

Wycombe 3 West Ham 3. SCREMPUS DIRECT LEAGUE Pressier Dhyblos: Keynsham Town 1 Westbury Utd 2. GREEK LEAGUES Arts Sa-lonika 2 PACK Solonika C; Versa 2 Xanthi 0; Panassinalkos 1 Proodebild 0.

GOLF

The Moroccan Open, due to be played in Agadir on 18-21 March, has been put back to 17-20 June – the same week as the US Open at Pinehurst in North Carolina.

ICE HOCKEY

er gracefully collected a loose ball on the half-way line and with little effort glided through the Army defence in a 40-yard

The Army's Darren Bosher goes to ground in his attempt to tackle Cambridge University's captain, Alastair Cotton, at Milton Keynes yesterday

placed the ball into an empty The arrival into the battle of England's Guy Fordham after 18 minutes saw renewed Army assaults, with the equaliser coming a minute later at a penalty corner from the Army

to score 200 National League The first of two solo goals

ambridge exploit Army's poor defence

dash, drew the goalkeeper and from Cambridge's Belgian Thierry Gruslin sent the students to the interval with a 2-1

Gareth Weir scored the first of his two goals eight minutes after the resumption before Jennings claimed his second. Gruslin's and Weir's second captain, Ian Jennings, who at goals were separated by a well

the weekend became the first taken goal from Scotland's ration and no doubt the pitch Richard Forsyth for the Army's

> Forsyth, who completed the Army's useful midfield along with Jennings and Fordham, was unlucky with earlier efforts. particularly a fierce drive against the upright a minute into the second half.

Cambridge, who had left their captain Rob Hudson on his sick bed at bome, will have found the game useful prepawas to their liking. The Army sorely missed their England Under 21 full-back, Jon Evenett, who was on manoeuvres.

WIO WAS OR MANOEUVPES.
Cambridge University: M Harris; N
Jones: I McCilve, P Outram, P Dodd; R
Wilcock, T Gusilin, A Cotton (capt), G
Weir, J Costelloe, A Laird, Substitutes
used: S Amerasekera, J Craven.
Army: Capt O Sherry, S/Sgt G Symes;
Pte I Ison, Lt J Reiph, Capt A Taylor; Cpl
5 Greenwood, WO, Llennings (capt), Ockt
R Forsyth; Fus C Williams, Capt T Wood,
S/Sgt O Bosher, Substitutes used: Lt
G Fordham, Rfn P Monreith, LCpl T Slater,
Umpilmes A Budd J ECHILIAI and T Kelly

BASKETBALL

NBA: New York 78 Detroit 59; Miaml 95 New Jersey 72; Phoenis, 115 Denver 106, Utah 120 Sacramento 1t2 (ot): Portland 99 Dallas 84, Golden State 101 Minnesota 99

OHLD

....

ASIAN TEST CHAMPIONSHIP INDIA v PAKISTAN (Calcotta) First day of five, Pakistan won tost PAKISTAN - First landags

Salim Malik c Mongia b Srinath Azhar Mahmood b Srinath

Umplres: S A Bucknor and O L Orchard.

RUTA DEL SOL (Sp) Third stage (165km, Benalmadena to Paesta Ge-RUTA DEL SOL (Sp.) Third stage (163km, Beasimadena to Presto Ge-#B): 1 M Barroll (it) Mapel 4hr 17min 16sec; 2 Planckeer; (Be) Lotor, 3 E Zabel (Ger) 2 Jelsom; 4 J P Rodriguez (Sp) Keime; S 5 Blanco (Sp.) Vicalico, Landing over-all standings: 1 Rodriguez (14hr 36min 16sec; 2 5 Bostro (Col) Keime +2sec; 3 Blanco +1:18; 4 C Moller (Den) TVM +1:20; 5 S de Wolf (Bel) Cofidis,

FOOTBALL The former Leeds United striker Tony Yeboah will stay with Hamburg SV Yeboah will stay with Hamburg next season, the German Bund

taining game.

their annual fixture against the

Army yesterday to the Milton

go club said yesterday.
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Kidderminster 1 Kercering 1. TERNENTS SCOTTISMCUP districtions of replays Ross County 2
Cyclebank 3 (arct Cydebank or Dundee Und
owny to Ayr in Duorter Roots). FA USBARD
TROPHTY foourth-recend replays, Servenage
0 Cheisenham 0 (arct. Cheisenham with 5-4 an
pers and are of home to Hendon in fifth round).
FONTTHIS LEAGUE Pression Divisions Preston 0 Birmingham 2; Stole 0 Northigham
Forest 1. Frizz Divisions Wolves 2 Offician
3. Sacoard Divisions Newczsie 0 Rotherham
1. RYMAN LEAGUE Pressions Divisions
EAGUE Pressions Divisions Achessone 2
Gressey Rovers 1: Wortesser 6 Merstyr Nofill 1. League Cup third rewards Burron At-

NPIL: NY Islanders 3 Tampa Bay 3 (ort; St Louis 8 Vancouver 1: Buffato 3 Carolina 2. Florida 2 San Jose 2 (ort): New Jersey 3 Toronto 3 (ort). Ortama 6 Chicago 2: Pittsburgh 7 Washing-ton 3. Anahelm 3 Los Angeles 1: NY Rangers 7 Nashwife 4; Dallas 4 Edmonton 1. RUGBY LEAGUE TUESDAY'S LATE RESULT
SEK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Fourth rounds
Oldhage 1151 18 Deembery 107 10. Old
home: Tries Brown, Deembery: Rede Goals Minut 2, Brown, Deembery: Tries Kerstaw, 8
Williams, Goals Eton. 11,520), (Oldhom
owroy to Whitehoven in little round).

> RUGBY UNION RUGBY UNION
>
> RNGANDA (» Scotland A, Headingley,
> Priday): J Williams (Horleguins): S Brown
> (Schmond), J Escens (Reddord, S Hanley
> (Sale), J Lloyd (Icioster), M Mapletoft, S
> Senton, T Moodman, of Giouster), G
> Chuter (Saracens), W Green (Nasps), G
> Archer (Richmond), Y Diprose (SwinCress)/Coptan), A Vander (Richmond), Replacements: N Walsh (Horleguins), A Ring
> (Wasps), B-J Matther (Sale), G Seeley
> (Northengord), St Commail (Sourcester), V
> Uboga (Bath), R Kirka (London Hist).

> SNOOKER SCOTTISM OPEN (Abardsan) First round (Eng unless stated): P Hunter be J Lurdner (Sco) 5-3 M Stewers (Mai) bt S Mazrocis 5-2: T Drago (Maita) bt M Wil-son 5-0: W Thome bt A Hicks 5-0: C Small (Sco) bt B Mapstone 5-1; S Hendry (Sco)

bt L Richardson S-0; K Doherty (Rep Ire) bt J Swall (N Ire) 5-2; Q Hann (Aus) bt M King 5-2; R O'Sullivan bt J Birch w/o; O Clarke bt 5 Davis 5-1; N Bond bt C Henderson (Sco) 5-1; P O'Brien (Rep Ire) bt A Burden 5-2; A McMarus (Sco) bt O McLellan (Sco) 5-2; D Herry (Sco) bt A Robidoux (Carr) 5-2; 5 Lee bt N Walker 5-1.

SWIMMING

S W I M M I N G

WORLD CUP SHORT-COURSE EVENT
(Malmö, Swel First day (of base): Ment
Some because if 1 5 Muthammod (US)
23.81; 2.0 Cartson (Swe) 24.30; 3.1 hard
(Fin) 24.39; 50m breaksteroker: 1 F
Deburghysoeve (Belgium) 27.84; 2.7 Isaleson (Swe) 27.91; 3.2 V (China) 28.10
100m Individual resetting: 1 J Sevines (Fin)
54.83; 2.C Ketter (Ger) 55.59; 3.5 Tucker
(US) 55.62; 160m backterstaker: 1 5
Theloter (Ger) 53.85; 2.M Gutillermo (Sp)
54.53; 3.4 Ruckwood (GB) 55.30; 100m
Presspirat: 1 G Borges (Fin) 48.15ecc: 2
5 Tacter (US) 46.41; 3.C Fydier (Aus) 48.54,
Men's 200m breaststaroline: 1 V Zhu
(China); 2.11.80; 2.7 Wilkers (US) 2.12.01;
3.R Mitchell (Aus) 2.12.47 200m betbarffer: 1.1 HeCham (GB) 155.07; 2.V Hanski (Fin) 1:59.25; 3.7 Monteiro (Bra)
1:59.52; 400m free-style: 1 J Hoffman
(Ger) 3:45.51; 2.M Rosolino (II) 3:48.52;
3.J Carseroen (Den) 3:50.02; 400m Individual meedley; 1 Tom Wilkers (US)
4:14.88; 2.C Ketler (Ger) 4:17.97; 3.J Sevnen (Fin) 4:22.06. Wiomen: 50m
freestyle: 1 K Meissner (Ger) 25.17; 2.5
Hosack (US) 25.58; 3.L Nicholis (Car)
25:78; 50m backstarolne: 1 K Secaryshyn
(Can) 2:894; 2.L Ornsteatt (Den) 28.38; 3.6
Zakrisson (Swe) 29.54, 100m backstroke: 1 K Secaryshyn (Can) 28.94; 3.1
(Can) 1:50.02; 2.5 F Homosan (GB)
2:11.31, 200m breaststroker: 1 S Riley
(Aus) 1:07.29; 2.7 Heyns (SA) 1:07.46; 3.M
Oluann (US) 1:08.18; 200m backstroke: 1 K Secaryshyn (Can) 2:09.37; 2.C
Rund (Ger) 2:09.72; 3 H Don-Duzan (GB)
2:11.31, 200m breaststroker: 1 S Riley
(Can) 1:58.10; 2.1 Lilmage (Swe) 1:58.62;
3 S Scelferson (Swe) 1:59.55; 200m landvidual meedley: 1 J Malar (Can) 2:12.94;
2 M L'mpert (Can) 2:13.07, 3 C Burgoyne
(Can) 2:14.49, 800m freestypie: 1 H Chen
(China) 8:2716; 2.C Pol (CG) 8:30.96; 3
K Nisbet (GB) 8:44.42.

MORZU REDOOR TOURINAMEINT (Notterdant) Men's Singles, First Researd:
E Kempes (Nerth) by I kroslak (Slowak) 64 7-6: R Federer (Swit) bt G Raoux [Ft]
6-7-7-5-7-6: H Avaz (Mor) bt G Edis (Arg.)
7-6-7-5: H Henman (GB) bt O Sanguinetti (It) 1-8 6-4 6-3: C Pioline (Ft) bt P
Harmuls (Neth) 3-6 7-6 (8-6) 7-6 (7-5)
a Ulirach (Cz Rep) bt G wantsewi. (Croa)
6-7-7-6-7-5: K Kucera (Slovak) bt B Black
(Zim) 6-1 6-1: W Ferreira (SA) bt T
Enqvist (Swe) 7-6 6-3.
FABER GRAND PRIX (Hassower)
Wanner's slagles, First rosset R Dragonir
(Rom) bt 5 Pitsowsia (Ft) 6-3 6-2: 2 S festud
(Ft) bt A Glass (Ger) 7-6 6-1: 2 Rittner (Ger)
bt 5 Pitschie (Aut) 7-5 7-6; M Oremans
(Neth) bt E Lot (Ft) 6-0 6-0.
ST JUDE TOURINAMENT (Hermphis,
US) Men's Singles, First Rossett
(Neth) bt E Lot (Ft) 6-0 6-0.
ST JUDE TOURINAMENT (Hermphis,
US) Men's Singles, First Rossett
(Aut) 6-3 7-6: C Rund (Nor) bt J Alonso
(Sp) 6-2 6-4: L Teleman (II) bt M
Rodroguez (Arg) 7-6 6-3: J Stark (US)
bt G Blanco (Sp) 7-6 6-3: J Stark (US)
bt G Blanco (Sp) 7-6 6-3: J Stark (US)
bt G Blanco (Sp) 7-6 6-3: J Stark (US)
bt G Steven (N2) 6-2 6-4: L Noosa
(Sp) 6-2 6-4: L Teleman (II) bt M
Rodroguez (Arg) 7-6 6-3: J Stark (US)
bt G S Blanco (Sp) 7-6 6-3: G Stark (US)
bt G S Blanco (Sp) 7-6 6-3: S Tark (US)
bt G S Blanco (Sp) 7-6 6-3: S Tark (US)
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bt G S Blanco (Sp) 7-6 6-3: R Reneberg (US)
bt G S Blanco (Sp) 7-6 6-3: A Tordoff
(GB) bt L Woodroffe (Ga) 7-5 6-3: S Oe
Beer (SA) bt P Hermida (Sp) 6-2 6-4: L Poutchek
(Bell) bt S Gorges (Ft) 7-6 6-3: L
Pullin (SB) bt A Serre-Zaneric (If) 6-0
S-4: 5 Sfar (Tun) bt J Choudhury (GB) 7-5
S-5: M Sucha (Slowak) bt M Froehach
(GC) 6-4: L Nemeckowa (Cz Rep) bt
bt K Neven (Hun) 6-2 6-4: L Harrer (GB)
bt R Andres (Sp) 6-0 6-4: L Larrer (GB)
bt P Wartusch (Aut) 7-5 6-1.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL 7.45 unless stated
WORTHINGTON CUP
SEMI-FINAL, SECONO LEG
ter (2) v Sunderland (1)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Aston Villa v Leeds Cheses v Backbough (8.0)

Man Utd v Arsend (8.0)

Mewcaste v Coventy

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHELD

NORTHERN SECTION

OUARTER-PINALS

Rochdale v Hafifav ... SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

BASKETBALL BUDDWRISER LEAGUE
Gr London Leopards v Chester (7.30).
(at Brentwood Leisure Centre)
Milton Keynes v Edmburgh (7.30).
Newcastle v Thames Valley (7.0)......
UNII-BALL TROPHY
SENS-PINAL, SECOND LEG
Manchester v Sherfield (7.40)

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RYMAN LEAGUE First Division: Brain-tree Town v Leatherhead.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Southern Di-vision: S. Leonards v Ashford Town.
JEMSON LEAGUE Premier Division: Ip-swich Wanderes v Habread Town.
JEMSON WESTERN LAAGUE Fore Division. JEWISON WESSEX LEAGUE First Divisions East Cowes Vics v Bemerton Heath Harl Whitchurch Utd v Wimborne Town, LEASUE CUP Courter-final, Second Log: Hamble ASSC v Cowes Sports.

JEWSON SOUTH-WESTERN LEAGUE: Taylstock v Saltash Utd. Tavistock v Saltzah Utd.

NORTHEZEN COUNTIES BAST LEAGUE
Precision Division: Hallam v Eccleshill Utd.

NORTH WIESTERN TRAINES LEAGUE
Floren. Second Division: Castleton Gabriels
v Tetley Walker.

SCREWIFTE DIRRECT LEAGUE Floret
vision: Torrington v Minchead SCHEWFLK DIRECT LEAGUE First Di-visions: Torrington v Minchead UNLIET SUSSEM COUNTY LEAGUE First Didation: Halsham Town v Hassock UHLSFORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: N Spencer v Ruckingham

ham (7.0): Notes County v Blackpool (2.0): Talled Dhitalon: Bury v Chesterfield (2.0): Darlington v Chester (2.0): Scuntoppe v Hartlepool (7.0): Wagna v Carliste (2.0): PONTINS LEASURE CUP Group Plant Oldham v Stoke (7.0).

ANON INSURANCE COMBINATION Plant Division: Bournemouth v Watford (2.0): Cambridge v OPR (2.0): Peterford (7.0): Wimbledon v Brentford (7.30): Gillingham v Arsenai (2.0).

Manchester v Sheffield (7.40) ... OTHER SPORTS ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Sheffeld v Ayr (7.0). RAIGEY UNION: Club Match: Hertford-shire v Combined London OB (at Hertford).

Keegan may be England coach today

KEVIN KEEGAN could be confirmed as England's new coach today after another day of hard talking produced progress on the issue of his working relationship with Howard Wilkinson and bis refusal to walk out on

acc his Un

The Football Association's international sub-committee condiscuss the snags which arose Monday with the FA's acting chief executive, David Davies, and the chairman of the international committee, Noel

After a meeting, attended by White, Davies, Ipswich chairman David Sheepshanks, Sheffield Wednesday chairman Dave Richards and Arsenal vice-chairspokesman reported "progress is being made". He added that FOOTBALL

BY PHIL SHAW

home in the North-east. The talks are understood to have centred on two main areas. One was Keegan's insistence that if he takes the job, he wants absolute control of the vened for two hours yesterday to England set-up, from who works alongside-him as assisduring Keegan's discussions on tant and backroom staff with the senior squad to the composition of Under-21 and B squads.

Keegan's perception of what the post entails runs contrary to the concept of continuity espoused by Wilkinson. The FA's technical director took over as England's caretaker coach after the fall of Gienn Hoddle and supervised the side for man David Dein, an FA last week's home defeat by France and efforts were made yesterday to find a compromise there had been further contact that does not undermine the with Keegan by phone at his power base of the former Leeds

United fans vote Cantona the best

in 1992 may have heralded the most concentrated period of success Manchester United have known, but United fans clearly have little sense of The fans have voted Eric

Cantona the best player in the club's history. A readers' ballot organised by United's official place ahead of George Best, Sir **Bobby Charlton and legendary** players of the past like Duncan Edwards and Tommy Taylor:

Ryan Giggs took third place between Best and Sir Bobby and eighth-placed David Beckham finished ahead of another 1960s luminary, Denis Law.

FA

Forgotten were Billy Meredith - the Cantona of the early

THE ARRIVAL of Eric Cantona 1900s - and the Bushy Babes Liam Whelan, Jackie Blanchflower and David Pegg. Johnny Carey, who led United to their first post-war League and FA Cup successes, failed to

Justyn Barnes, the magazine editor, is not too surprised. "The average age of our readers is 22, and that is reflected magazine puts Cantona in first in the high placing of modern players," he said.

make the top 50.

United's history, but it is still arguahle whether Ryan Giggs, who helped win two Doubles deserves to be ranked above Sir Bobby."

Top 10: 1 Eric Cantona, 2 George Bes 3 Ryan Giggs, 4 Sir Bobby Charlton, Bryan Robson, 6 Duncan Edwards, 7 Pe ter Schmeichel, 8 David Beckham,

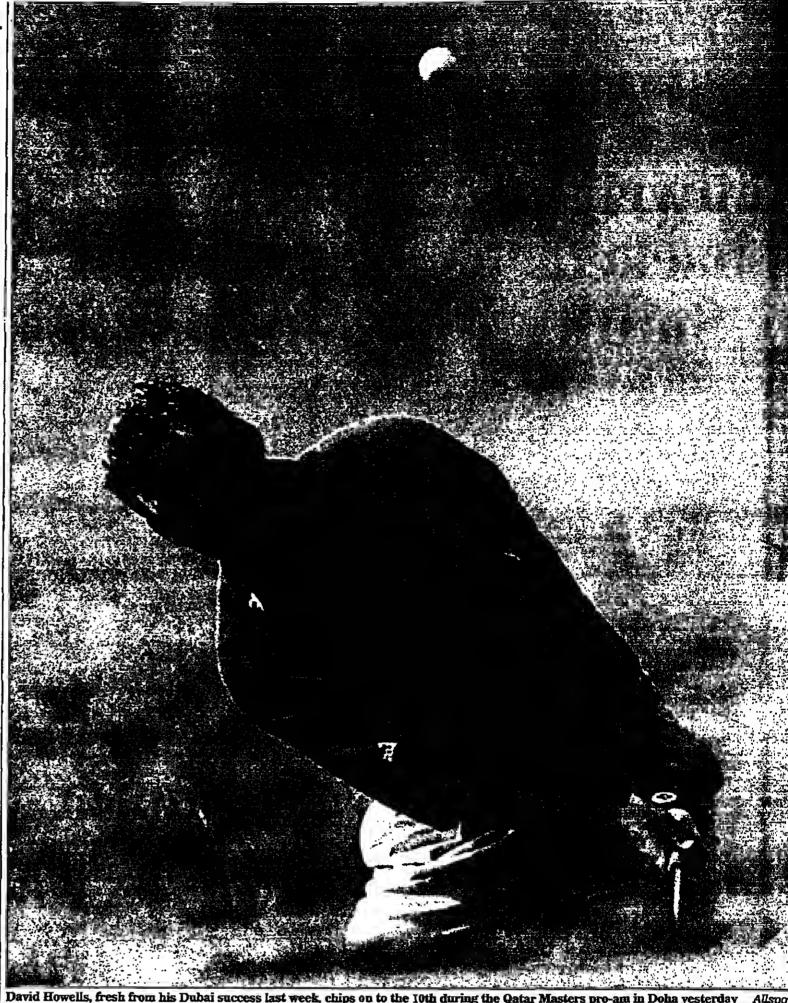
The other sticking point, which is believed to concern Keegan more, has been his determination not to break his contract with Fulham as chief operating officer. It still has 18 months, and he believes he could juggle the two roles. The FA's acting chairman, Geoff Thompson, has been adamant that the 48-year-old former England captain would have to leave the Second Division promotion favourites by the summer.

Whether Fulham's owner, Mohamed al-Fayed, has now given Keegan his blessing in the national interest is unclear. However, it is thought that the discussions have brought the parties closer to a mutually agreeable solution.

If compromise has indeed been reached and Keegan is paraded at Lancaster Gate within the next 24 hours, his first match in charge will be England's make or break qualifier for Euro 2000 against Poland at Wembley on 27 March. The European campaign resumes in June against Sweden and Bulgaria, while there is also a friendly in Hungary or 28 April, when Fulham could well be at a critical point in their season.

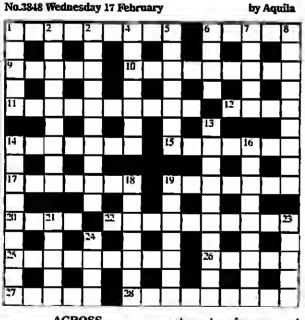
Arsène Wenger, who figured in early betting as the man most likely to be England's first foreign coach, came up with a light-hearted solution to the club-v-country conflict yesterday. "Maybe the answer would be for Fayed to buy all the top England players for Fulham." the Arsenal manager said.

Wenger also shed light on why the leading Premiership "The 90s have been the most managers have not been rushconsistently successful era in lng to fill the hot seat vacated by Hoddle. "Being an international manager used to be the most prestigious job of all, but times have changed. Club competitions have become more prestigious than international games, apart from one month every four years for the World



David Howells, fresh from his Dubai success last week, chips on to the 10th during the Qatar Masters pro-am in Doha yesterday Allsport

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



law (4)

by guns (4-6)

25 Actor cued to get dressed for military

ACROSS
His Excellency lodging His Excellency lodging can go (7)
in Panama, perhaps? (9) 20 Holly is one taking

Commodore initially is indebted to yachting centre (5) Theatre intended for singing (5)
10 Butterfly operating all

over the place (6-3) 11 From purse, coins go at such great speed (10) 12 River that does not start in the country? (4)

14 A flinty product. somewhat (7) 15 Accommodation for passengers unsuitable basket? (7)

17 Clerical men sometimes 2 Athletics leader, with taken on hoard? (7) 19 Bob taking hullet? That 3

of medal, perhaps (10) Retrenchment required of company in money Up with the lark? (7) Composer limited to four notes (4)

Drink tea brewed in West Riding, initially (5) One brought in to take the place of 22 They go off in smoke as learner's surrounded petitioner (9) 13 What gives relief after a heavy fall?(4-6) 14 Construct forge (9)

"Else"- white rose 26 University celebrate creating employment (5) Cleat hammered to variety (9) 18 Rugby population striking effect (5) Stiff paper for church people in short section of exam (9)

Retains advantages (5) awards, wastes away (9)

supporting prison using U-shaped clamp (7) 19 Note one who ignored Polonius, to get a kitchen appliance (7) 21 Do better than 40, say,

in Rome (5) A good deal of vision (5) Essential thing for musi-cians on street (4)

Hill 'shocked' after Gloucester sacking

RICHARD HILL yesterday be-came the second managerial casualty of the season when be was sacked by Gloucester after three years and four months in charge at Kingsholm

Philippe Saint-André, the France international wing, will take over until the end of the season. Hill who was appointed director of rugby in October 1995, said: "It has been a fair old shock. We are all very disappointed at Gloucester's current position in the table and it doesn't look good from the outside, we are fifth from bottom and I cannot argue with

The Gloucester team manger, John Fidler, a close friend of Hill's keeps his job, and he said: "It's a very sad day here at the club. But we have to realise RUGBY UNION

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Tom Walkinshaw, the part owner of the Arrows Formula One team who holds a 73 per cent stake in the club underlined the business approach when he said: "He [Hill] is the guy in charge and he is the one esponsible if it doesn't work."

The dismissal will fuel speculation that Hill may attract the attention of Bath Their former scrum-half still lives in the city, and Bath are struggling too.

Privately they acknowledge that they would like to appoint a director of rugby to relieve head coach Andy Robinson, a former team-mate of Hill's, of some of his administrative bur-

Last night the Bath general manager, Bob Calleja, said: "The reality is that we are all under constant review, but I can confirm that we are not contemplating any immediate per-

Hill confined himself to a cautious: "At the moment I have no plans in place because I had not intended to lose my job overnight like this."

Even after their ninth league defeat against Harlequins last Saturday Hill was insisting that Walkinshaw had not lost patience at the club's poor showing, but last night he said: "At least I've got plenty of time now to concentrate on my Eng-land A coaching duties."

Hill's false optimism.

The race that had no winner

RACING

four runs in his native land.

My True Clown soon lived up

BY IAN DAVIES

WAS THIS the worst horse race ever? The world of racing, used to dealing in winners and losers. had a rare no-score draw when a steeplechase at a Yorkshire point-to-point became the race with no winner. Now they know how it feels at Goodison Park

The opening contest at Sunthe bridle in the paddock, leadday's Badsworth meeting, on a ing only as far as the third custom-made course on the infence, from which point Can I side of Wetherby racecourse, at-Come Too overtook his rival. My tracted just two runners, the True Clown plugged on galveteran 13-year-old My True lantly, but, despite the slow Clown, honest but slow, and the pace, found it increasingly difex-Irish eight-year-old Can I ficult to remain within the same Come Too, who had fallen twice postal district as the leader and been pulled up the got so far Louise Hampshire, his rider behind his rider decided it was gave up the ghost and pulled

him up at the fourth-last fence, half a mile from home.

However, Can I Come Too failed to profit. The horse refused to jump the next obstacle "pointless" to continue) in his - the third last - and, despite the best efforts of jockey Ian Bento his reputation for coming off nett, declined to negotiate the fence on any of Bennett's three subsequent attempts.

The race was therefore abandoned and all bets - bookmakers act on the principle 'if you can't win, you can't lose! - were returned. So, if you ever go for a day at the races, don't forget to ask the bookies to quote you a price about the draw.

free banking 24 hours a day, Bob's your uncle! Fine banking means that there are no charges for cheque and cash machine withdrawals in the UK standing orders and direct debits, Switch payments or more with

waternames in the Un. summing graders and direct debits. Switch payments or morally statements. Applicants must be 18 or over. For full written details of our services with to First Direct, Freepost, Leads LS98 2RF. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. First Direct is a division of Mickend Bank plc. Member HSBC ** Grass.

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*THE INDEPENDENT

17 February 1999

BUSINESS REVIEW

THE MAN WHO OWNS CYBERSPACE

OR HOW MASAYOSHI SON NETTED \$15bn IN FOUR EARTH YEARS



Inside: The superstore that ate America, coming to a high street near you, page 4 Can DMGT survive the FTSE 100? page 5 The adman's adman revealed, page 6 Plus: Hamish McRae, Diane Coyle, Derek Pain, Jo Davis and The Trader

banking

THE BUSINESS WORLD

Employ clever people and make work fun

an umbrella where their creative people work for themselves as well as for the firm. And the wisest companies of all are those that can make their best people hring their good ideas to them, rather than leaving to develop them them-

One of the great boom areas in international business is organising events - product launches, "thank How do you build the stock of yous" for good customers, days out for staff and their families, and so on. If dooe well, they can be wonderful; done badly they can be toecurlingly embarrassing. The one thing all have in common is that events are expensive, time consuming and just a little dangerous. So why do companies take this risk? This answer. I think, lies in two

words: "human capital". Most husinesses are very well aware that their key asset lies in the minds of the people they employ. Add up the identifiable value of the total assets of any company, the factories, the product stream and the licensing agreements. Then look at

WISE COMPANIES make work the company's market capitalisa- financial reports to make its comfun. Even wiser companies create tion. There is invariably a gap, mitment more explicit. sometimes a huge one. In the case of some of the fastest-growing types of husiness - investment banking, management consultancy, software development - there are sities" which are devoted to virtually no conventional assets at all. All the value is in the people.

This raises string of profound questions for company leaders. human capital? How do you extract the value of this capital for shareholders? Or, at its simplest, how do you get clever people to work for Unsurprisingly, companies pro-

duce a string of different answers to these questions. Many devise elaborate incentive programmes, which has been reasonably easy in a strong share market you give people shares. Ooe company, Skandia Life in Sweden, has tried to measure the stock of capital in the heads of its employees and deploy the knowledge as widely as possible human capital report alongside its to their human capital - they will

Other groups like Andersen Worldwide, the accountants and consultants, or Motorola, the communications group, have "univerimproving the skill level of their emplovees. Enormous resources are put into this: the Andersen campus near Chicago feels just like an exclusive US liberal arts college.

Quite aside from the geoeral benefit to the group of putting resources into training, there is a simple business rationale for such ventures. I once asked an executive why his company spent so much on training. What stopped people taking this expensive training and going off and working for some ooe else?

"You doo't understand." hereplied. "It is because we spend so much on training that people stay with us. We employ clever people who know their value and who could walk out of the door whenever they want. But provided we go across the group. It produces a on increasing that value - adding



HAMISH MCRAE

The hardest trick of all for companies is to create a greenhouse where

staff can develop new businesses under the protection and with the support

of the parent

stop that they take their brains

Staff retentioo is a wholly respectable reason for paying attention to training. But every company can devise a cuttingedge training scheme. Every company can develop inceotive schemes. And I suppose every company can dream up yet more glamorous venues for parties, for there are pleoty of specialists to help them. As human capital becomes yet more important to company survival, what will be the qualities that distinguish the great

from the OK? I have two suggestions. The first is the great companies will seek to make the whole joh fun not just the events designed to reward key staff. Now of course not every aspect of a company's activities is going to be enjoyable. We all have to do things we don't like doing. But anyone who has spent much time with different companies will quickly pick up the warning signs; an excess of deference or staff and an evident fear

that something is not quite right.

The second is to create fluid structures of employment. To persuade clever people to work for you is not just a matter of offering a better package than the opposition. The rival may not be the company oext door, but rather the person starting up their own business. If a person can make more

money (and have more fun) working for themselves, why should they work for an employer at all? The answer for some people may be that there is nothing that can be done. The new communications technologies huilt around the Internet are almost certainly tipping the balance of power away from most large companies (not all - look at Microsoft) and towards very small ones. But many people will be prepared to carry on working for an employer provided they can bring their personal business under the

wing of the group they work for. These are enormous challenges for husiness leadership, they represent a seismic shift that is taking power away from the corporation

stay with us. It is the moment we of criticism are two good indicators and towards the individual. Few husinesses are accustomed to thinking of making their work fun: and fewer still could accommodate employees with an explicit split in their lovalties between their own private work and their job.

But the hardest trick of all, and therefore the one that one that hrings the higgest benefits if a firm can pull it off, will be to create a greenhouse where staff can develop new businesses with the support of the parent.

The new industries of tomorrow almost always start with a few individuals and a good idea. They do not start in the established commercial giants. Just as Microsoft was not founded as a sub-division of IBM, the oew industries will be created by clever people outside today's commercial giants.

But need that happen? The great prize awaiting every large husiness in the world is to grow the human capital industries of tomorrow. To win it, they need to create fluid employment structures to retain the cleverest people: then build the greenhouse to develop their ideas.

DATELINE: MODENA, ITALY

The profit in firm family values

he sleek steel-blue LGV (laser-guidedvehicle), a sort of R2-D2 without the flashing lights, purrs quietly as it lifts up the pallet of components, pirouettes slowly and moves across the storehouse to deposit them. It is programmed to follow the daily rhythms of the factory. At the end of the working day, it shuffles over to "bed"; a power point in the wall that recharges its batteries

The scene is not from a futuristic movie nor from a state of the art makes up Sassuolo, Italy's "Cecomplex in Japan or Korea. We are in the factory of one of the countless medium sized family firms that are started with ceramics." Lucchese's the backbone of Italy's economy, Rossi Motoriduttori, hased near chines trying to mass-produce tiles. Modena, world leaders in gear re- Today their company Florim has covducers and variators. Chances are ered the corridors leading to the Sisu you took an escalator or opened an automatic gate recently, their products made it possible.

"Certainly this is the way things are going." said managing director Greco Vero. "Fewer people oo the shop floor using machines when they are suitable and keeping human heings for more skilled

Modena's leap from post-war poverty to prosperity has been remarkable. The area has the sixth highest pro capita income in the country and its iodustry totals more than 2 percent of Italy's annual exports. Expeosive new cars and full restaurants are the tip of an iceberg of economic well-being. Modenese husioessmen have a reputation for flair, adaptability and thinking ahead.

Not surprisingly, with the approach of the scary new millennium with the ghoul of globalisation, Modena's family-run firms are having a

We're well established here in Europe hut to penetrate in the rest of the world we may have to forge alliances with, for example, an American company," said Vero. AnBy Frances Kennedy

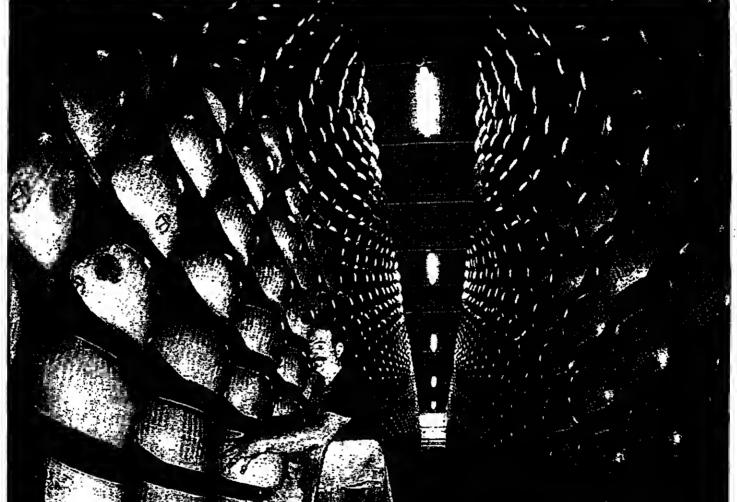
other development which Italian companies have tended to resist, could be a stock market float.

Most people associate the Modena area as the higgest producer of Parmesan cheese, or for its famed tortellini or balsamic vinegar or Ferrari. Yet economists from Harvard to Heidelburg study it for its unique economic model.

"All this area was agricultural plains after the war," said Claudio Lucchese, indicating the panorama of chimneys, factories and roads that ramic Valley". "We were poor but the hills nearby were rich in clay so we father started with a couple of matine Chanel and the swimming pools at the Atlanta Olympics. The company is still firmly in the hands of the Lucchese family; the founder's grandchildren are now in key management roles and profits have been poured back into the firm.

As tile makers prospered, suppliers and subcontractors who served their needs sprang up glaze-makers, manufacturers of cutting machines, creators of firing ovens. "If we need a machine fixed it's just down the road," said Lucchese. "But the reasons the industrial districts work is that while there is healthy competition within the sector we know the value of interdependence. This stands us in good stead against Spain which is making inroads into our market."

Lucchese's ceramic production machines are created by another Modenese self-made millionaire, Franco Stefani, whose obsessive pursuit of innovation has earned him the nickname Archimedes. A short, lively man with spiky white hair, he began hy creating machines for the ceramics industry and has taken that to the limit. "Look and touch,"



A vast hall of the famed Parmesan cheese lends a strong scent of success to modern Modena

fake?" Only by turning them upside

down can you tell. His company, System still 100 per ceot family-owned, has hranched into automation and logistics. "The only way to keep ahead is to con-

he says proudly, indicating two apparently identical pieces of green flecked marble. "Which one's the says proudly, indicating two apparently identical pieces of green flecked marble. "Which one's the 200 metres of space in just four square metres. "We generate our own resources. We set up technical schools or faculties at the local university to train specialised staff. If we waited for the government we

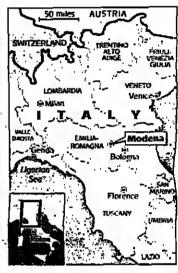
would be out of husiness." In the food sector, there are fewer family firms and more large industrial groups. Now, one of Modena's gastronomic specialties, fresh tortellini, are to be marketed abroad. "We have signed a deal with ASDA and are negotiating with

Tesco to produce for them," said

J.P. Amet/Sygma

Bruno Venturelli, head of fresh pasta at the Fini plant. We have been hesitant to export because a product with a limited shelf life needs excellent transport and distribution, but its going to be fundamental in the future.

Ravarino, to the north of Modena, seems an unlikely spot for a com-



pany at the cutting edge of Italian street wear, most of which is snapped up by Brits. Japanese and Californians. It was here, among pear and walnut trees, that thirtysomething Carlo Rivetti and his sister, whose family own a large textile manufacturer, left the fold to take over two struggling hrands, C.P. Company and Stone Island.

Rivetti's company produce fabrics that protect against electromagnetic waves, windbreakers that change colour with the heat, metropolitan jackets with anti-smog masks incorporated and clothes that are tear-resistant.

"Ours is a niche market," said Carlo, a thin sandy-haired man with a quirky smile. "We produce only about a million items a year. We can't and don't want to compete with the big names or the mass producers. We're betting on quality and ex-perimentation. We also count oo a personal touch. If an item is not moving in the boutique, the owner can bring it back and change it. If I'm abroad and I see someone wearing a C.P garment I go up and introduce myself, and offer to buy them a drink."

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL PRESS

FORBES Bill Clinton's plans for American pensions

THE PRESIDENT proposes the feds invest social security surpluses in stocks, pumping in hundreds of bil-"ons of dollars in the next 15 years.

e Berlin Wall may have fallen, the Soviet Union may have collapsed and China may welcome private foreign money, but the US government now wants to seminationalise American corporations. Not since the Clintons' attempt to take over health care has there been such a Beltway power grab as this. Washington as venture capitalist?

Political pull will count more than shrewd appraisal of prospects. Our economy will become as nimble and innovative as those of Western Europe. Far better to phase in a new system where younger people would own their social security retirement accounts. This kind of people power is infinitely more democratic than | they have been for three decades. Car makers should follow suit. Clinton's Soviet-style approach.



THE ECONOMIST The restructuring of the European car industry

THESE INNOVATIONS will change the nature of the industry. Firms may be able to make production runs of less than 100,000 cars economical, without investing in giant

The right way to encourage car makers to embrace such changes is for governments to get out of the way. That means allowing national champions to be taken over and old-fashioned plants to be shut; it also means fostering inward investment and unrestrained competition in retailing. The example to learn from is the steel industry. After years of Brussels-run production quotas, price-fixing and subsidies had done nothing to halt its decline, the entire apparatus of intervention was dismantled in the late Eighties. European steel makers are more compelitive today than



FINANCIAL TIMES Open skies talks between Britain and the

United States

SIGNS THAT the US and the UK are ready to agree an open skies accord are to he welcomed, mainly because this could help open the door to a transatlantic open skies agreement between the US and EU. The first step towards transatlantic open skies should be the lifting of re-

strictions on foreign ownership, currently more onerous in the US. Governments will have to acknowledge that good fares and service are more important than the

flag on the tail. Indeed, there is no role for government in the airline industry beyond ensuring safety and

At a time when the motor, oil and pharmaceutical industries are consolidating, it is absurd that governments remain so determined to promote their national champions in

BUSINESS WEEK When the idea of currency union for the Americas might work

NOW THAT the euro has had a successful debut, is it time to start thinking about a dollar bloc in the western hemisphere? A few brave policymakers are suggesting that North America Free Trade Agreement members - the US, Mexico and

Canada - at least consider the idea. A North American version of the euro is unlikely, and probably unoecessary. The US economy dwarfs its Nafta neighbours, unlike the European Union which hrings together 15 relatively similar, densely populated, industrialised states. And pushing for a new unit to replace the dollar, already a global reserve currency, is apt to be an unwinnable po-

liheal crusade in the US... Few in the Americas seem ready for a single currency. But if the euro gives the Europeans a competitive edge, the Nafta dollar may be in-

WALL ST JOURNAL Japan's new get-tough plan to restructure its

debt-laden banks

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

EARLIER THIS month, Japan's vice minister of finance, Eisuke Sakakibara (aka Mr Yen) made the highly publicized remark that Japan's financial crisis would end "in the next week or two". That was yesterday and, despite Mr Sakakibara's optimism, Japan's nearly decade-

loog financial crisis is far from over. While the plan developed by the FRA may be a step in the right direction, it does not go nearly far enough to impose market discipline on Japan's bloated banks. Neither does it address the fundamental problem plaguing Japan's financial system; lack of profitability due to immature and inefficient capital mar-

The government needs to "get tough" not only with banks, but also with other distortions in the Japanese economy - many of which the government itself has created.



Barron's How gold could

become a valuable

commodity

NOW, WE yield to no man in our convictioo that gold is a perfect hedge

against capital gains. But wise Marc Faber says that you ought to buy some of the stuff as insurance against a global financial accident

Marc is eager to confess that he's neither "a gold hug or an expert on the gold market". Nonetheless, he "believes the time has come to gradually shift some financial assets into gold".

We suspect that you could do worse than consider Marc's advice. For it is based largely on the contrast between the extraordinary complacency of investors, on the one hand and, on the other, a world economy increasingly susceptible to some grand, untoward event.

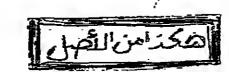
And nothing is more comforting, he notes, than insurance that you



FORTUNE Why Brazil is still a worry after the peso devolution

A KEY reason Brazil is saddled with such a huge deficit is that in 1993 the constitution transferred more than a fifth of federal income tax revenue to the states, while leaving responsibility for social programmes like health care, education and sanitation with the federal government. State governors gorged themselves on this bonanza; the worst came to be known as "maharajas"...

Brazil cannot restore its fortunes without ending such oonsense. But Cardoso has trouble mustering simple majorities; constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority Cardoso must persuade legislators to put the country's interests before their own - not an easy job even in older democracies. In this sense, Brazil's fate now lies with its political system, which is at least as volatile as its stock market. Get ready for more nasty surprises.



alues

COVER STORY

BY JEREMY WARNER

s the world's largest investor in cyberspace, reportedly owning 25 per cent of the Internet, Masayoshi Son will either go down in history as a blinding visionary or a reckless fool. While all around him whisper about bubbles bursting, the man from Japan is shouting 'buy, buy, buy!' What does he know that we don't?



of the internet

an Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, thinks investing in them is like buying a lottery ticket, and that most will fail Bill Gates, of Microsoft, be-

lieves that these soar-away stocks should be trading on lower multiples than ordinary companies; he wouldn't advise even his worst enemy to invest at these levels.

Rupert Murdoch thinks the phenomenon will destroy more businesses than it creates. And The Economist believes they are about to come "spectacularly crashing to Earth".

Everyone, it seems, is convinced the US craze for Internet companies is a financial bubble about to pop, and that when this happens, the consequences will be quite disastrous, not only for those who have invested in them at these apparently fanciful levels, but also for America's vibrant Silicon Valley and quite possibly for the world economy, as well. Everyone, that is, apart from those crazy Americans, who have taken to trading these stocks, generally on-line, as if this was a Saturday afternoon at the races; everyone, that is, apart from Masayoshi Son, or "Mr Internet" - the man who owns a quarter of cyberspace.

There is no doubting the bubble-like characteristics of the phenomenon. Individual Internet stocks have been known to change hands up to 10 times in a day, so frenzied is the level of trading, while it is oot uncommoo for the value of shares to yo-yo by 50 per cent in a single trading session.

Some of the hottest Internet companies - Yahoo!, AOL and Amazon.com - have come to be valued, despite their insignificant profits, at more than Boeing and Disney.

So convinced is one leading US economist of the bubble-like characteristics of the Internet craze that he has labelled it "Tulip.com", after the great seventeenth century speculation in tulip bulbs. Rarely have investors seemed so determined to lose sight of reality.

So is the Internet shares phenomenon a dangerous game of financial roulette, which is bound to end in tears, or is there more

One person who believes there might be is Mr Son, a 41-year-old financier and entrepreneur who, with foresight the rest of us can only dream of, managed to take big shareholdings at an early stage in a whole raft of today's highest flying Internet companies. So inspired was his investment strategy, that he is oow not only far and a way the biggest investor worldwide in the Internet, but he can realistically claim to own 25 per cent of cyberspace. This may seem a meaningless boast, but shareholdings of around 30 per cent in Yahool, the most vislted site on the Internet, Geo Cities, number three, and E.Trade, one of the US's biggest Internet stock brokers, are just the more visible and valuable in a portfolio that includes nearly 100 "pure" Internet companies. No one else comes close to that concentration of power in what has become the world's fastest growing industry.

"I admit that what's now going on is crazy hype," Mr Son says. But he won't call it a bubble. "Yes, of course there will be a correction, probably later this year or early next. The increase in valuations has obviously been far too fast. But we are long-term investors and this doesn't matter to us."

Mr Son's view of the Internet investment phenomenon is that we are only at the beginning. Today, the quoted Internet sector is worth about \$200bn. "My bet is that over the next 10 years, this sector will go to \$2,000 billion," he says with a degree of confidence that only other self-made billionaires could match. "I say it will rise ten-fold but that is only because I want to stick with a conservative forecast. Actually, I think twenty-fold

is more realistic." To back this forecast, Mr Son cites the example of the personal computer sector. Ten years ago, the collective stock market value of personal computer companies, including giants like Microsoft, Intel and Compaq, was \$38bn. Today they are worth more than \$2,000 billion. That's a degree of wealth transfer and creation unmatched in recent history. Is it really possible to repeat the trick with this second generation of technology

and entrepreneurialism? Of course it is, says Mr Son. At the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, last month, Mr Son asked a select audience of businessmen. bankers and economists which sector they thought would eventually be bigger, PCs or Internet? "Ninety-five per cent voted Internet," says Mr Son. "And they must be right. The PC market is fimited to hardware, software and retail. The Internet is unlimited in size. From flowers to automobiles, the Internet will come to be key in virtual-

ly all industries. "There are only two numbers in my vocabulary - zero and infinity. The Internet encompasses both these characteristics. It has zero variable cost; there is a zero decrease in accuracy as information is passed around. At the same time, it has infinite reach, infinite information and infinite product range. Neither of these things - zero or infinity were possible in the past.

"Whoever understands these characteristics and incorporates them into their business model, will succeed in revolutionising their industries, and taking over from the old, established firms."

Prophetic, starry-eyed stuff. Is he right? The record, it might be said, speaks for itself. Mr Soo is today one of Japan's leading entrepreneurs and very much the face of "new" Japan - self-made and mistrustful of the past.

Amazingly for one listed as among 10 to watch out for in the latest assessment published by Forbes magazine of the 200 richest people in the world, he still answers his own e-mails - and he does it religiously every day. If Japan has its own version of Bill Gates Mr Son is it.

His beginnings, however, could hardly have been less auspicious. He was born into a poor family of Korean descent who lived in a shanty town on the edge of Tosu city in southern Japan, where they eked a living from breeding pigs and chickens. Perhaps because of this, Mr Son shunned the traditions of Japanese education and at the age of 16, went to California to complete his schooling, eventually ending up at Berke ley. There his entrepreneurial skills received an early boost when he invented, and subsequently sold to Sharp for \$1m, an early version of a multi-lingual pocket translator. His other business venture as a student was the import of used video games from Japan. He earned enough money to return to Japan and establish a business, Softbank - a dis-

tributor of PC software. He was pushing at an open door. The PC market in Japan, unlike the US, was still in its infancy. Few others were doing it and Mr Son rapidly moved to a position where he was supplying some 50 per cent of the total retail market in Japan. From there, he moved into PC magazines, developing along the way an almost absurdly simple and ambitious strategy - to control as much of the world's digital future as he could. If nothing else about Mr Son is particularly Japanese, this kind of mission statement is - a straightforward, no-nonsense, statement of

Inevitably it was to take Mr Soo back to. the US and that extraordinary hothouse of hi-tech entrepreneurial endeavour, Silicon Valley. By 1994, the Internet had already reached take-off point in the US and it was spawning a new generation of companies, so different in their nature, ethos and decentralised management style from anything that had gone before, that many of them did

oot seem like conventional businesses. For many of these Internet entrepreneurs, their companies were a personal cru-

sade, a hobby and a lifestyle venture. Softbank examined more than 5,000 of them, the idea being to take big strategic stakes in up to 100.

"The thing to think about," Mr Son says, "is not that we risked our money in investing in 100 of these start-ups, but that we turned down 4,900 companies.

What were his criteria? "Yes, of course we looked at cash flow, but since many of these companies have no cash flow, this doesn't mean a lot. What we concentrated on was the business model - management and the strategy for growth."

Even then, these companies were not cheap. It is bard to tell exactly how much Softbank has invested in US Internet stocks. Mr Son says it was \$100m. Others say it was much more.

What is not in dispute is that with the explosive growth in valuations, the combined worth of Softbank's Internet investments is now in excess of \$15bn.

On top of that, there is an associated ven ture capital fund with a myriad of investments in smaller Internet enterprises. What singles Mr Son out from other Silicon Valley venture capitalists is that he invests only in pure leading-edge Internet companies, shunning software, hardware and backbone infrastructure.

At the start, the strategy worked like a dream. With the belp of a team of former Nomura financiers, hired especially for the purpose, Mr Son would use the "cheap" money available in Japan to finance his American adventures in technology Against traditionally high Japanese valuations, his investments did not seem expensive.

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It has not all been a bed of roses. Despite the runaway success of many of his gambles, there has been persistent scepticism. Like many entrepreneurially led companies. Softbank is widely regarded in the investment community as being overburdened with debt. Its financial affairs are less than transparent and its accounting practices are, by Western standards, of dubious quality.

As a consequence, Softbank's share price has been a mirror image of the volatility of the Internet shares it invests in, climbing to dramatic heights before plunging downwards and recovering again.

The Japanese stock market's scepticism is amply demonstrated by the fact that today Softbank is valued at less than the worth of its stake in Yahoo! alone, Mr Son regards this as "ridiculous", but it is testameet to the degree of concern in the investment community that the last Financial Times cutting on Mr Son described his company as "the troubled Japanese multimedia conglomerate". That article appeared more than a year ago and Mr Son would no doubt claim that the subsequent rise and rise of traded Internet stocks has more than vindicated him. Nonetheless, the doubts remain. Even the biggest and best Internet companies still devour, rather than generate, capital, and Mr Son's exposure is such that he has to try and feed that appetite. Is he not in danger of over-extending himself?

Perhaps, perhaps oot. But on one thing Mr Son is not alone in his thinking. Everyone agrees that the Internet is going to transform the way business is conducted and organised. It is, as yet, uncertain whether that revolution will be as awe inspiring and all-encompassing as, say, the development of the railway and the motor car, or the discovery of electricity.

On one level, e-commerce and the Internet are just alternative methods of distribution. Nothing very exciting about that, it might be said. On the other hand, the Internet allows for a degree of competition and price transparency never before seen. What's more, it brings this about on a global scale. If that might seem to be bad for the profitability of business and, by extension. for the value of companies, just dwell on this: One of Mr Son's recent investments is Buy.com, a company which incorporates a zero or eveo negative margin into its business model. Who, in their right mind, would dream of starting a business which sells products for less than it bought them for? An Internet entrepreoeur, of course. The idea is that the difference in price is re-

couped from advertising, The Internet's share of total advertising worldwide is much less than 1 per cent. Mr Son and others like him think this will rise exponentially with the growth of e-commerce. "If you see an advertisement on your TV set and you are wearing your pyjamas at the time, what is the next action you can take?" he asks. On the Internet you can purchase that item immediately, rather than waiting till the next morning.

And still Mr Soo's Japanese investors who allow Softbank's shares to trade at such a huge discount to its underlying assets, don't seem to get it. "They will eventually." Mr Son predicts confidently.

'INTERNET SHARES WILL RISE TEN-FOLD

Masayoshi Son's thoughts on the future of internet companies:

"Stock prices have risen too fast and there is bound to be a correction, either later this year or next."

"On a long-term view, this correction will be like nothing. Internet companies are the companies of the future.

Over the next 10 years. the stock market value of the internet sector, currently some \$200bn, will

rise ten-fold as existing companies grow and their ranks are swelled by newcomers."

"I am a conservative person and this is a conservative estimate. Actually, it is more realistic to expect a twenty-fold rise."

*This bet is based on what has happened to the PC

easily scope for it to grow to \$2,000 billion." "The Internet sector will

sector over the past 10

worth just \$38bn, including

Microsoft, Intel, Compag.

Today It is worth \$2,000

billion worldwide. The

Internet sector is worth

\$200bn today so there is

years. In 1988, it was

eventually be much larger

models will fail." *The biggest business

growth area on the Internet

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Computers are transforming the economy

of new information technologies on the economy. On the one hand, you get the cynics who think it is all hype and balderdash, and that nothing bas changed fundamentally. And on the other are whizz-bang enthusiasts with boundless optimism about the future

who say everything is different. The first shreds of evidence that at least something is different are being furnished right now by the US and UK economies. In both cases, there has been more growth with less inflation than the experience of the past generation has led us to expect. There might be all sorts of explanations for this, including deregulation and jobs market flexibility, hut advances in technology are another candidate. After all,

bere are two general almost all the long-term economic non-excludable - if it is made availworld has been attributable to technological progress.

Yet even if things are genuinely different now, it does not, as some enthusiasts seem to think, mean the laws of economics have been suspended. New structures of production and costs in the information age are amenable to analysis.

Some of the features enthusiasts tend to pick out are the least interesting. For example, the pace of technical change is certainly very rapid now: the value of computer power increases 32-fold every decade, while the value of car power grew four-fold every decade at the same stage of the combustion engine revolution.

More interesting this time around are the special features of

views about the impact growth there has ever been in the able, there is nothing to prevent. people who have not paid for it from sing it. There are some technical fixes for this, such as the set-too boxes that control access to broadcast TV programmes. But it is impossible to prevent a Chinese manufacturer, say, from copying a CD or a dress design. Battles over piracy and intellectual property rights will be a recurring theme of the information economy

> Secondly, many people can use information at the same time, unlike traditional goods. The marginal cost of information - the cost of serving an extra customer - is therefore zero in one sense. The efficiency of the economy demands that the price is zero, too, because there is no consumption of scarce resources. But if the price were information. Much information is zero, the information would not be



DIANE COYLE

More has changed than the usual economic statistics would lead us to believe - much new input is simply not measured

are often very high.

Thirdly, much information is not transparent. You don't know how good it is until you have actually tried it, and if you know what It is you already have it.

call for very different sorts of business strategies. One of the best recent books on what they ought to be is Information Rules by Hal Varian and Carl Shapiro.

Much of their analysis focuses on the tension between giving away your information so that people know what you have to offer, and recovering your costs. For instance, one possible strategy is to give away samples to encourage people to buy the full or premium product. Price discrimination between different types of customer is another fruitful strat-

mation much cheaper than realtime information - rather as paperbacks are cheaper than original bardback editions.

In addition, Varian and Shapiro also emphasise the power of heing Not surprisingly, these features first in the market in information industries: there is more value to something the more other people are using it. The fax machine is s classic example. Yours is no good unless other people have one too. Microsoft Windows is another.

The analytical framework provides some justification for the loss-making strategies adopted by so many e-businesses. They are spending on being first in the market and huilding up a customer base: if all your costs are upfront, the only way to reduce unit costs is to sell more units.

The policy implications are as

provided because the initial costs egy, such as making delayed infor- profound as the lessons for business: we might be doomed to an environment of serial monopoly. where the biggest player in each market has to be kept in check by the competition authorities rather than direct competitors.

And a key challenge for governments will be creating an environment that fosters as many new start-ups as possible, because serial entrepreneurship is a necessary corrective to serial monopoly. As Bill Gates has often said, the biggest threat to his business is not the Justice Department but some geek hunched over a keyboard.

This is indeed a different sort of economy. In the long run, it will be a more prosperous one. Whether this is cause for feeling boundless optimism about the short run is another matter entirely.

d.coyle@independent.co.uk



The president of Wal-Mart, David Glass, leads employees at a Pennsylvania store in the company song

Wal-Mart set to conquer Britain

ONCE UPON a time ago - more precisely the 20-odd years that constitute an eternity in the history of the American suburban landscape - Route 159 in Illinois south out of Edwardsville was a gentle semi-rural highway joining the interstate to St Louis. Today it is Anywhere USA: a mall-to-mall traffic jam stretching for miles, a cameo of endof-millennium sprawi, a line of buge flat temples of consump-

tion stretching to the borizon. Once there were fields of sweet Illinois corn, reputed to be the finest in America, but they have long vanished beneath parking lots the size of urban development, American style - what happens when land is plentiful and cheap, the throat. This is the America of Wal-Mart, the world's largest, most successful retailer. Just

possibly, in a not-too-distant future, it could be coming to farmland near you. In Britain we must tremble at the prospect.
"Wal-Martisation" comes at

a price. Before the interstates came, when Americans still lived in cities, Edwardsville was a bustling commercial centre, a staging post along US66 as that celebrated highway prepared to cross the Mississippi and strike for the great expanses of the West. The place is still there, of course, with its county court house, its churches and public library. They've even put up new bank buildings and public offices.

But where there once was retail hustle, virtual silence reigns. The shops have disappeared, crushed by the out-oftown superstores lined along Route 159, vanquished by the likes of Dillons, K-Mart, and Toys "R" Us. But above all, hy

Now Wal-Mart, having conquered America and spread tentacles into Canada, Mexico, Latin America, Asia, and most recently Germany, is sizing up BY RUPERT CORNWELL

our green, pleasant and crowded little land. The question is, do we want it?

The company is monument to one of this century's most remarkable businessmen, Sam Walton started his discount stores in Arkansas in 1962, convinced that smalltown America was ripe for a discount ailing revolution. By the time be died in 1992, sales had risen to \$44bn, and "Mr Sam", as he was known to his employees. was the richest man in Ameri-

tomer service? It is no accident that Walca. His secrets were a ruth- Mart driven by the ambition of lessly efficient computerised chief executive David Glass to

Wembley Stadium. This Is inventory and distribution systum itself into a world brand to

prices to beat anyone.

Unusually in a land where rapacious shareholders bear down on over-worked employees, the humblest sales clerk was an "associate" who received shares in the company, allowing him too to cash in on Wal-Mart's explosive growth.

Above all, the customer was king. And Sam Walton, with a personal fortune of \$23bn, lived like his customers. His frugality was legendary. He was happlest inspecting his stores in person, driving a battered Ford pick-up with his hird dogs caged in the back. Wal-Mart today has 2,700 stores in America alone, employing 600,000 people. Its global sales last year reached \$137bn or £84bn. (equivalent to more than a tenth of Britain's entire gross domestic product. But Sam Walton kept its headquarters in s warehouse in Bentonville, Arkansas, 50 miles from the nearest interstate. He was an American original. Which is why his methods may not flour-

ish so easily here.

match Coca-Cola, made Germany its first target in Europe. The Germans, until recently saddled by laws which closed shops on Saturday afternoons, are retailers to make the even the much-maligned British look good. But in 14 months, Wal-Mart has acquired WertKauf and Interspar, two chains with 95 hypermarkets between them. Wertkauf has stores similar in size and appearance to the SuperCenters Wal-Mart is introducing in the US, emporia with 200,000sq ft of

taking. We suffer, we are told.

from some of the highest prices

in Europe for groceries, car ac-

cessories, electronic goods, ap-

pliances, products which are

the backbone of Wal-Mart's

business. Our retailers are said

to have grown fat and lazy in a

protected world of high margins

and low competition. So why not

welcome this American invad-

er, and enjoy American-style

prices and American-style cus-

one of the top five food retailers in the US, overnight). Britain could be the next bridgehead. But the transatlantic invaders will not find it easy. Even in the US, where the discount market was increasingly saturated, Wal-Mart seemed to lose its way after the death of "Mr Sam". Today, with the growing success of the SuperCenters and plans for a new generation of smaller in-town stores to mop up surviving You could conclude that high street competitors, the Britain is ripe for Wal-Mart's company is flourishing again.

space, for the first time adding

groceries to Wal-Mart's tradi-

tional range (making Wal-Mart

In Britain, many basic conditions which belp Wal-Mart at home simply do not apply. Roads are already clogged, and new ones are harder to build. The high cost of scarce land is one often-overtooked reason for those "rip-off" prices paid by the retail customer. Planning permission is difficult to obtain, and development doctrines have turned against the type of out-of-town bypermarkets in which Wal-Mart specialises. The half-dozen operating or under construction here are

likely to be the last. Reducing traffic and reviving the inner cities are the watchwords. Another watchword, unfortunately, is recession. The US may defy gravity, but the British economy is stalling.

when Wal-Mart does cross the Channel, it is unlikely to set up from scratch, and Britain's green fields will be safe. It is likely to repeat its tactics in Germany and buy existing chains, with Asda or Safeway widely tipped. Booker is a cash and carry chain that also could be in its sights. But even then

there will be cultural obstacles. For all the current nectalgia for a smalltown America. crushed beneath the megastores' jackboot, not enough people are really care enough to halt the process. In Edwardsville they remember the downtown drugstores of a generation ago, and shed small tears for places like Auerbach's. the main street clothing store where the local hotshots used to go. But the suburbs, the malls and the Wal-Marts march relentlessly on. Across America there are thousands of Edwardsvilles. Britain is a nation of city dwellers, who wish we lived in the country. We moan about high prices but almost certainly will refuse to pay the price required to lower them.

For Wal-Mart and its like, Edwardsville, Illinois, may have been a pushover. Edwardsville, Mid Glamorgan, would not be.

MY BIGGEST MISTAKE

I forgot we were mail order

MY BIGGEST mistake was to lose sight of our core competency and move into manufacturing, after we had been going for seven years. A lot of our customers were asking for us to supply PCs; we sold software, printers, scanners, and it was the final piece of the jigsaw. I started out cold-calling,

knocking on doors on an industrial estate, selling anything to do with computers. After a year I found some really good software in America and started to import it. Then we grew into a mail-order company.

In April 1997, we started building PCs. We had a customer base of around 300,000 and 15 stores. Customers were asking us for PCs and we had two options: either to sell major brand names or build our own. We decided to build our own. We bad s ready market, and order, than manufacturing.



we felt we weren't in any way diversifying from our core business - it was the same thing. From the customer's standpoint, it was, but what took us ages to realise was that we bad built this big company and what we were really good at was mail order There was probably more synergy in us selling golf products or perfume via mail

Software Warehouse in his early 20s after being made redundant from his job with a small computer dealer. His company, the UK's fastest growing over the past four years, now has 350 employees with an annual turnover of more than £100m. He has also written a book, 'Serve to Win'. and is launching a computer magazine, 'Internet Monthly'

Steve Bennett, 33, founded

We sold quite a few computers, about 1,000 a month, but we were spending a lot on marketing. Another thing we did wrong was that we didn't put a director on it at board level. We shared responsibility, and started de-focusing from our core

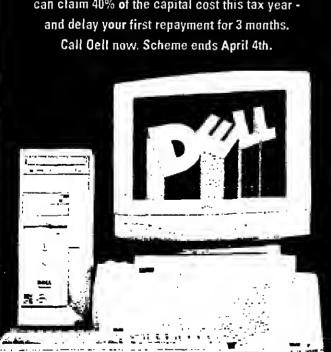
in January 1998 we had a board meeting and I wanted to on its own two feet. close it; others said we had to

give it more of a chance. But by May, it was risking the whole ship. We were all focusing on getting manufacturing working.

You have this tangible you can see - the money you lose but there's also an intangible; the lost opportunities. In the end, we laid off 19 people. It was painful. In nine years, 1 had never bad to make anyone redundant. Until you close it down, you can gloss it up as an investment. The day you close, you are writing off that money. But if we hadn't, I'm convinced we wouldn't have got back to the old strength,

We still launch subsidiaries like, Internet Monthly. But we have taken an existing director. who has set it up as his own project. The rest of the board don't need to get involved. It stands

RACHELLE THACKRAY



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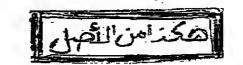
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CORPORATE PROFILE

BY NAOMI MARKS & JOHN DAVISON

the uncertainty that greeted the accession of Jonathan Harmsworth (right) to the chair of The Daily Mail and General Trust has passed. It's very much business as usual at the media group, with share prices rising and now a place among the elite of the FTSE 100. But with its new-found status comes a nagging old question: can a multi-national company run along family lines remain intact in the global media village?

set to DMGT

most companies ining the elite ranks of the FTSE 100 share ndex, the Premier eague of Britain's olue chip companies. would be a cause for unqualified celebration. But not necessarily so at Daily Mail and General Trust, which achieved the accolade earlier this

oung charmer who stepped into the bot seat last September after the untimely death of his father, Lord Rothermere, achieving the stock market valuation that qualifies him for the FTSE has a double edge.

With it should come a top-drawer City following, cheaper capital and renewed investor interest in the company. But alongside these benefits there are also disciplines. And many of these are about the last thing that this last great British newspaper dynasty wants, or feels that it needs.

It is a curious paradox that the group that owns the Daily Mail, that bastion of middle-England certainty, can itself appear to be a mass of contradictions. Ask senior journalists how they view Daily Mail and General Trust (DMGT) and the response will nearly always come laced with admiration, albeit often grudging. Here there is, they will say, a media owner with an uncanny knack of riding the Zeitgeist.

Its papers have editorial budgets that most others can only dream about, and operates under the assumption that it can have whatever or whoever it wants when it wants them. If there is a problem, money is thrown at it in a way that can seem profligate, or like the actions of a spoilt child. But it is a policy which, while at odds with most Fleet Street thinking, seems unerringly to deliver. The facts seem to speak for themselves. Latest circulation figures show

the usual modest but ateady rises for both the Daily Mail and the Mail on Sunday. More significantly they demonstrate total domination of their respective markets. Whatever anyone may think of the products, together they are a great journalistic success story. Equally, few in the City would argue with this picture. Last week the company posted record results, with operating profits up 34 per cent to £214m.

Yet ask any authority on corporate behaviour and the answer couldn't differ more. DMGT is well out of kilter with the modern age, they say, pointing to the group's archaic dual share structure which allows the founding Harmsworth family to use shareholders' cash without relinquishing any control.

With this comes a degree of shypess, or downright secrecy, about eperations which would only normally be associated with a private company Alone among the hig media groups it has no press office, for example. Interested journalists are directed to its corporate affairs office, itself run by a member of the family clan - Vyvyan Harmsworth, a cousin of the chairman.

Most observers would agree, however, that in part this very closed family nature has been behind both the group's recent suc-

cess, and previous vulnerability The dynasty has its origins in the launch of the Daily Mail in 1896 by





Founded: Roots go back to the 1896 taunch of the Daily Moil by Alfred Harmsworth, later Lord Northcilffe (above). Incorporated

Divisions: Associated Newspapers, DMG New Media Northcliffe Newspapers, Euromoney Publications. Harmsworth Media, DMG Employees: 14,000

Market capitalisation: £1.6bn Turnover: £1.4bn (up 18% on Operating profit: £213.6m (up 34% on 1997)

Earnings per share: 135.1p

the journalist and adventurer Alfred Harmsworth, later Lord Northcliffe. His great idea was to produce a newspaper for the then burgeoning middle classes, and it is one that has

guided the group ever since. While he provided the journalistic drive, his brother Harold, the first Lord Rothermere, provided the business acumen. Within 20 years the fledgling empire of Associated Newspapers owned the world's largest stable of magazines and more than half the titles on Fleet Street - including The Times and The Daily Mirror.

When Alfred died childless in 1922, the succession passed to the Rothermere line, and Harold in turn handed it on to his third son, Esmond, on his death in 1940. The elder two brothers had been killed in the First World War.

Always the reluctant press baron whose real ambitions lay in politics, Esmond presided over the apparently terminal decline of the group. A report commissioned in 1970 said that the Daily Mail could no longer compete with its arch rival the Daily Express. Losses on Associated's three titles at the time - the Mail, the Daily Sketch and the Evening News were heading for £14m a year.

Esmond had begun to negotiate a merger with the Express, but when talks broke down be resigned and handed over to his son, Vere, the third Lord Rothermere. His relaunch of the Mail as a mid-market tabloid, increasingly aimed at the emerging market of younger women, laid the foundation for the group's current success.

have not been easy. Late 1997 saw the unexpected death of Sir David English, the Mail's editor-in-chief. His working partnership with the third Lord Rothermere, which spanned three decades, has always been seen as the basis of the revival.

Then, last September, came the

The past 18 months, however.

equally unexpected death of Rothermere himself. So the dynasty fell prematurely into the hands of his son, the then 30-year-old Jonathan.

sharp drops in the DMGT share price. The last was fuelled by fears that the new Lord Rothermere. only three years into his schooling in the ways of the company, was far

of long-time chief executive, Charles Sinclair, the share price has, since last October, climbed back higher and higher. The message to the City is clear: it is business as usual.

Entry into the company top few friends. There are 100 million DMGT shares issued, and the Harmsworth family owns 80 per cent of the five million that come with voting rights. The present Lord Rothermere alone controls more than 56 per cent of the Group's voting shares. The only other FTSE 100 company to retain such a dual share structure is the merchant bank Schroders. (Interestingly, Charles Sinclair is also a nonexecutive director of Schroders).

has a number of reservations.

art Bell, PIRC research director, is uncompromising. "It'a unsustainable that they should retain the po-

"I see no reason for change," says DMGT finance director Peter Williams, "A small number of institutional investors who will not buy our non-voting shares, but that's their prerogative. It's copeat emptor." He adds: "Media seems to be a business where you can take a long-term view and we can do that. We're not driven by the next set of results. If we need to invest in a product we will do that, even if it

say that fears about his preparedness for the task were themselves premature. They describe him as very well tutored in the group - right from having managed a paper mill in Canada - and keen to make his personal mark. Indeed they say be is more willing than his father to be seen as the power behind decisions, where the previous Lord Rothermere preferred to smile benignly in the background.

graduate wife, behind him and with a son of his own, the dynasty seems secure for the next generation. That is what you call long term planning. Whether money will be spent on the newspapers with quite the same abandon could be interesting to watch. One friend described Jonathan as "slightly frugal" by

Both deaths were followed by

from ready for the top job. However, under the steady

league, however, brings with it unwelcome City scrutiny, where DMGT's corporate structure finds

uch structures: "go against the principles of corporate governance and well established practice in all the developed world," says Chris Baldry, manager of the voting issues service for the National Association of Pension Funds. PIRC, the corporate governance consultancy, recently produced a report highly critical of DMGT It states that though its directors believe the company fully complies with the Cadbury Committee's code of best practice, PTRC

On the dual share structure, Stu-

sition," he says. Yet retain it they will.

means hitting the earnings." long time things have gone rather Friends of the new chairman well. It took 20 years for the Mail to overtake the Express after the 1971 re-launch, but its position now appears unassailable. Even journalists who disagree with its political position, and its owner's intolerance of in-house union activity, commend the paper for its sheer professionalism and the golden touch of its editors. The third Lord Rothermere also launched the Mail on Sunday, now

almost as impregnable as the daily. And the group succeeded in retain-With Claudia, his bright Oxford ing its supremacy in London with the Evening Standard in the mid-Eighties by briefly resurrecting the long-dead Evening News in a devastatingly effective spoiling operation against Robert Maxwell's fiedgling London Daily News. Perhaps his greatest achievement, though, was in consolidating



Jonathan Harmsworth, the fourth Lord Rothermere, chairman DMGT Educated at Gordonstoun; Kent School Connecticut, USA; and Duke University,

In 1993 Harmsworth joined Mirror Group where he gained valuable experience working in editorial, marketing and management. He was inducted into DMGT ways in the Group's regional newspaper arm, Northcliffe Newspapers before becoming managing director of the Evening Standard in 1997. At 31, Harmsworth inherited his position five years before his father had planned. While he still has much to learn, he already wants to introduce a more dynamic approach into DMGT. Harmsworth keeps a low profile and has

so far refused all interview requests. He owns more than half the voting shares in the Group. Married with two children, one of whom is named Vere.

turned up to a golf tournament

without any balls to play with, on the

assumption that someone else

Pressure to change, analysts

agree, is unlikely to come unless the

Group hits hard times - and for a

would be providing them.



Paul Dacre, executive director DMGT (above). Dacre joined the Daily Mail in 1980 and progressed steadily through the ranks, becoming Evening Standard editor in 1991. A year later he was made Daily Mail editor after The Times tried to

peach him. Promoted to editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers and elevated to the board in 1998, following the death of Sir David English. He is renowned as a demanding workaholic and is a devoted family man. More reserved than Sir David was, he nonetheless commands huge respect across Fleet Street for both his newspaper and strategic vision skills.

Charles Sinclair, chief executive DMGT. An accountant, Sinclair joined the group in 1975, the board in 1988 and was appointed chief executive in 1989. Described as relaxed and urbane and "not into power but into auccess". His is seen as an important guiding and steadying hand as the new Lord Rothermere finds his feet though another accountant, finance director Peter Williams, is the face DMGT presents to the City. Aged 50.

nature. One story told is of how he the Group, folding its national news-Laura Larghi, an analyst with paper wing, Associated Newspa-Paribas, agrees that there can be pers, into DMGT, which had been, few complaints about DMGT's performance now, but says the future in essence, the personal investis a different question,

ment portfolio of the Rothermeres. Ridding DMGT of all its non-Euromoney is the best part of media stocks, the Group was transthe company. It really is a jewel. But formed in the late Eighties into the it's just one part of the company. coherent media company it is today. DMGT should be a hit more aggressive. They have the money s well as its national papers, and can fund other sources of prof-DMGT today includes itability. The newspapers can grow Northcliffe Newspapers, the

organically but not much more." Another analyst backs her and says acquisitions will be the key to the group retaining its top ranking. One senior insider describes DMGT as traditionally "not entrepreneurial, just very, very staid", but says there are signs that the new

chairman may want to change that. He believes the group depends too much on one product inewspapers), and one market (the UK), and says DMGT must look to other

quantity, there is much City faith in Mr Sinclair and Mr Williams. One countries and activities. Electronic media, radio and exhibitions are among the areas the new Lord Rothermere is looking to the "extraordinary success" of its

for long-term growth. Recent acquisitions include Why

Publications and Radio Mercury

Peter Williams concedes that recent successes can be put down to the buoyant UK economy and the strength of advertising, and admits that the pace cannot continue. Hence the importance of diversification. But he stresses that newspapers will remain the heart of the company.

Next month's £8m launch of Metro, a daily London free newspaper to be distributed at tube stations, seems to confirm that picture.

It will also be seen as the first real contribution of Jonathan to the groups fortunes - not least because he was one of the small group of five senior managers who decided to go with the project. With a sudden change in editors of the title last week, and News International working on a similar title, this is unlikely

to prove easy terrain. Still, there has only been one notable failure in recent years - that of the cable venture Channel One which folded late last year after failing to achieve sufficient subscriptions. Pressure from the City for DMGT to change its quiet, old fashioned ways may still, therefore, be

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UK's second biggest regional news-

paper publisher, exhibitions, radio,

Teletext, and electronic data busi-

nesses; a New Media division pro-

ducing mass-market Internet sites

and a majority shareholding in

Euromoney Publications. The whole

ship is run smoothly and without

is still something of an unknown

fund manager speaks of the need for

pragmatism when dealing with

DMGT, preferring instead to extol

recent past. You cannot fault the

company's profits record, he says.

Even if the new Lord Rothermere

fanfare from its Kensington HQ.

some time in coming.

Right man to tackle 'mission impossible'

puter generated image of the new tilting train destined for Virgin's West Coast main line says it all: "Mission Impossible". Chris Green, the highflier who turned around three divisions of British Rail, has been hired to sort out problems at the country's most unpopular train company.

Mr Green, 55, faces an uphill task. Virgin owns two of the most elderly and problematic rail franchises. The West Coast line from London to Glasgow has had little work done on it since it was electrified in the Sixties. CrossCountry runs trains that connect all corners of the UK and cover distances of up to 800 miles, making them liable to delays.

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Last year the franchises attracted more passenger complaints than any other operator and the latest performance figures showed the flagship London-to-Glasgow service had the worst punctuality record in the country, with almost 20 per cent of trains running late. The letters columns of the national papers are full of horror stories from passengers. Virgin is a butt of the na- barked on a 100-day mission to get tion's jokes to an extent that only British Rail could rival.

The business probably reached its nadir at the Labour Party's annual conference when Virgin failed to deliver party delegates to Blackpool. Richard Branson went on the radio to tell shocked listeners: "We fucked up, we fucked up badly.

The appointment of Mr Green is a sign that Mr Branson is desperate to restore the reputation of the train business, whose performance threatens to undermine the Virgin brand. Mr Green has been hired on a five-year contract with a two-fold mission - to deliver a markedly improved service on the existing network and ensure the £1.8bn worth of new trains will be delivered on time. He should be qualified for both, as one insider praised his "exceptional" marketing ability and his track record on train procurement.

The first task looks the more challenging. Mr Green said he would launch a "back-to-basics" strategy to improve punctuality. He has em-

views from staff and passengers about the way forward. "I want added professionalism in everything we do. Whatever we do, let's do it well and let's get rid of those silly little mistakes that have annoyed customers. Running out of tea is just unforgivable," he said. "People have taken their eye off the ball while making large train orders or contracting out work to third parties. We have to get back to basics.

"It will be a process of continuous improvement for the next few months. It is about getting the boring details right. I would hope to be able to show an improvement every Virgin recently provoked an out-

cry by increasing first-class fares to Manchester by 10 per cent and to Birmingham by 19 per cent while offering better deals on tickets booked three days in advance. Mr Green said Virgin's prices

had been lower than other operators,

but added: "I would not expect us to

have higher prices." He had "four or

delays due to train faults. He insisted he wanted to build a new relatiooship with Railtrack, which is spending £1.2bn on the West Coast line, following recent arguments over who was to hlame for falling standards. "Throwing rocks at each other may feel good but it won't solve a single problem. The two new fleets of trains are the key to the long-term success of

said it was too early to go into de-

tails as he only officially took over the

reins from Brian Barrett, who is re-

Despite Virgin's poor reputation.

rest down to other operators. Rail-

track or acts of God. Under the deal

for the new trains, the train builder

tiring, on Monday.

the Virgin rail business, which is now 49 per cent owned by Stagecoach. About £1.2bn is being spent on a fleet of 53 140mph tilting trains for the

five" new initiatives up his sleeve but West Coast line which will achieve four hours, said a spokesman. The rest is being spent on 78 diesel trains for the CrossCountry route.

Mr Green has been bere before. From 1992 to 1994 he was managing he said that only 30 per cent of dedirector of InterCity, the profitable lays were caused by Virgin, with the high-speed train business of BR that includes both CrossCountry and West Coast. Ironically, the man in charge of the West Coast line at Alstom would take responsibility the time was Ivor Warburton, who for the existing fleet under a contract resigned last week as director of that demanded a 33 per cent cut in husiness development. Mr Green said the pair remained friends.

His successes in turning around the fortunes of ScotRail and the creation of the Network SouthEast business led to him being hailed as the best chairman BR never had. He quit in protest at the plans to break up the network at privatisation. His departure in 1995 for the top job at English Heritage took the industry by surprise.

Observers say Mr Green's career with BR made him the right man for the top job at Virgin Rail. One said:

"He has an impressive track record. the "holy grail" of Glasgow in under He is probably responsible for the procurement of more new trains during this period than any time since. His no-nonsense attitude and exceptional marketing ability is wide. ly believed to be a long-needed counter to some of the more disastrous promotions dreamed up by Virgin's novice marketing people.

Mr Green declined to reveal his pay package but he said he had been given a "fair deal" by Mr Branson. He said he would have been interested in the job of chairman of the Strategic Rail Authority, the new body being set up by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, to regulate the railways.

However, it is unlikely he would have been accepted for the post following a Commons Public Accounts Committee report last year that said he was unfit to hold public office. This followed his high-profile departure from English Heritage amid accusations of inaccurate expenses claims. However, there was no suggestion of any fraud.

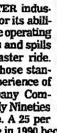
BOOK OF THE WEEK

THE

ALCHEMY

The alchemy of growth hy Mehrdad Baghai, Stephen Coley and David White

THE COMPUTER indusof a roller-coaster ride. dards, the experience of the US company Com-



cent sales rise in 1990 became a 9 per cent fall in 1991 and operating income halved. The company slashed 12 per cent of its workforce and replaced the chief execu-

His replacement, Eckhard Pfeiffer, led a drastic restructure - reducing costs, speeding product development and extending the product line to compete with the "clones" of IBM-compatible personal computers that had transformed its marketplace. According to Mehrdad Baghai, Stephen Coley and David White, the three McKinsey & Comanagement consultants who are the authors of The Alchemy of Growth, Mr Pfeiffer was "earning the

Citing his introduction of a "performance culture" making managers strictly accountable and highly rewarding high performers, they credit him with an impressive turnaround by the end of 1992 - so creating the conditions for a growth curve that saw sales rise 45 per cent and net income grow at 58 per cent a year between tion of how companies lose the ability to grow. "The right and the resolve to grow are preconditions for success

But it is not that simple. The authors cite Reynolds & Reynolds, a company facing increasing competition at the low-margin end just as it focused on more valuable products and systems. A new chief executive concentrated on a handful of customer markets and built "leadership positions" in them to stabilise operating income. Managers talk of this need to concentrate on sev-

But since the authors are management consultants. they have developed a concept, "the three borizons of growth". This is a "three-stage pipeline" seen as useful in allowing distinctions between the "embryonic, emergent and mature phases of a husiness's life cycle".

nesses - and is seen as vital for generating the cash resources for growth. Horizon 2 covers building emerging husinesses - the fast-moving, entrepreneurial ventures in which a concept is taking root or growth accelerating. Horizon 3 contains "the seeds of tomor-

off over different time frames, when they pay off has little to do with when they require management attention. Accordingly, the authors say, managers must deal with them all concurrently.

is fundamentally obvious. Any manager who had the time to think would believe be or she had to pay attention to coming up with ideas at the same time as ensuring that existing husiness chugged along as well as possible.

they have forgotten that not all growth is profitable. ies diversified into a whole range of industries only to come unstuck. Significantly, the company's spectacular growth in recent years has come through concentrat-

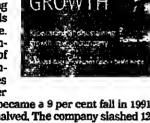
ROGER TRAPP

TOP TEN BUSINESS BOOKS

The Little Book of Caim at Work				
Paul Wilson (Penguin)	£2.50			
Losing My Virginity				
Richard Branson (Virgin)	£20			
The Crisis of Global Capitalism				
George Soros (Little, Brown)	£17.99			
Business Studies For You				
David Needham & Robert Dransfield				
(Stanley Thornes)	£13.50			
The One-Minute Manager				
(HarperCollins)	£5.99			
Seven Habits of Highly Effective People				
	£10.99			
The Hungry Spirit				
Charles Handy (Arrow)	£7.99			
The Equal Opportunities Guide				
Phil Clements & Tony Spinks (Kogan Page)	£13.99			
G A Cole (Letts)	£12.95			
The Dilbert Principle				
Scott Adams (Boxtree)	£6.99			
Compiled by Book	worth I h			
	Paul Wilson (Penguin) Losing My Virginity Richard Branson (Virgin) The Crisis of Global Capitalism George Soros (Little, Brown) Business Studies For You David Needham & Robert Dransfield (Stanley Thomes) The One-Minute Manager Kenneth Blanchard & Spencer Johnson (HarperCollins) Seven Habits of Highly Effective People Stephen R Covey (Simon & Schuster) The Hungry Spirit Charles Handy (Arrow) The Equal Opportunities Guide Phil Clements & Tony Spinks (Kogan Page) Management Theory and Practice, 5th of GA Cole (Letts) The Dilbert Principle Scott Adams (Boxtree)			

Orion Business, £20

try is known for its ability to give those operating in it the thrills and spills But even by those stanpaq in the early Nineties looks extreme. A 25 per



tive and co-founder, Rod Canion.

right and building his team's resolve to grow".

in the pursuit of growth," say Baghai, Coley and White.

eral things at once as "keeping balls in the air".

Horizon I involves extending and defending core busirow's businesses - options on future opportunities".

The problem is that, though the three horizons pay This is a typical consultants' attempt to mystify what

But in throwing light on the mechanics of growth, the book is likely to prove highly valuable. Indeed, most people are so convinced that growth is "a good thing" that

The McKinsey team point to how Nokia in the Eighting on a particular market and coming up with innovative ways of serving it.

Who's doing the business in... advertising?

Chris Powell

Chairman, BNP DDB The person I am most impressed with in the advertising industry is Jeremy Bulmore who is non-executive partner at WPP. He came to the top via the creative ladder which is the very best route in my opinion because if you can write and do your own ads you are practically on your way to being a one-man agency. But anyway, my reason for choosing Jeremy is simple. For me be is more insightful than anyone else in the industry.

Stevie Spring Managing Partner,

Young and Rubicon Maurice Saatchi because he has effected the most spectacular growth of an agency in he was the orrong force behind the "revenge" creation of the M&C Saatchi agency. Only someone with his focus could have done this; be sat back and thought "I want to number among the top 10 agencies in the UK; I want admiration." He fixed his sights on growth at whatever cost and be achieved it. He's up front and he's in your face. You just can't fail to admire him and the fact that in four years M&C Saatchi has gone from scratch to a place in our top ten agencies is a testament to his abilities.

Brett Gosper Chief Executive

Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper The two people who stand out in the advertising husiness at the moment are Mark Wnek, who is our executive director, and Rohin Wight who is the chairman of WCRS. I have picked these two in particular because they share a quality which is fantastically useful in the business these days - they are what I would term "hybrid" advertising people. There tends to he a sharp distinction between those who work on the creative side and those who work on the business side. For me, these two men have managed to combine both creative strategy and business acumen. It really is a fantastically rare combination. With their business sense, flair and strategic tendencies, they could be one man advertising agencies.

Mark Lund Managing Director,

Delanev Fletcher Bozell There have been three seminal figures in advertising. I should probably start by naming Bill Bernbach who was in adverin America, These were the days when advertising was polite. Bill brought the voice of Jewish New York into the headlines. He introduced a manner of appealing to the consumer which was short, punchy and catchy. Rather than having the voice of an estate agent, advertising was given the language of the sandwich bar. He introduced a refreshing imme- ative Director. He has created diacy to advertising.

in advertising hecause be weapon - innovative, original the independence and flexibil-

founded the belief in the UK that creative work was worth fighting for Rather than following to the letter the client's demands, Frank thought it was vital to respect the integrity of the artefact. Although be was ultimately doing the client's work he thought it was important to realise that the client doesn't always know best. For example the client could decide that they wanted the smallest thing changed but Frank realised it would affect the entire balance of a campaign if even the smallest detail was changed. He was the first apos-

tle of the advertiser as expert. Finally, there's David Abbott of Abbott, Mead and Vickers. Twenty years ago, David Abbott brought a middle-class sensibility to advertising. David looking at with a certain degree of intelligence and respect. For example, the snpermarket campaign always used to be based on the pile it high, sell it cheap mentality. But David said no, let's do it another way and focused on aspects such as the variety and quality of food available. His wasn't an entirely polysyllabic form of advertising hut it was more so than previously. It's implicit in his ads for Sainshury's, BT and Volvo among other things. But to reiterate, the important aspect of David's attitude to advertising was that he insisted on a respect for the people to

whom he was talking. Chairman, TBWA

I'd like to single out two people in particular. First is Michael Baulk who is chief executive with AMV. I admire him particularly for the manner in a situation where he was successor to the hugely successful legacy of David Abbott and to achieve it with enormous success. It's never easy tobe a successor and he managed it. His business acumen is also a reason to single him out. He has balanced the seemingly conflicting ingredients in advertising - management and creativity and he has married these two criteria to great effect. I also have to mention Martin Boase of BMP. He has achieved 30 years of excellence with seemingly effortless ease. He has built a culture which has stood the test of time and he'a done this thanks to his clear vision and lightness of touch. He managed to create a working environment in which there is tising in the Fifties and Sixties a single-minded clarity regarding the agencies intentions. It is thanks to him that BMP is one of the most suc-

> Amanda Walsh, Managing Director

Walsh, Trott, Chick, Smith John Webster would be my choice. At the moment he's at created a whole new mood and BNP where he used to be Cresome of the greatest advertis-Second I would pick Frank ing campaigns I have ever Lowe. He was a groundbreaker seen. He's BNP's secret



Maurice Saatchi: Regarded by his peers as their most formidable business rival

Steve Morgan

agencies because you live or die by your creativity - it's what the clients can't do themselves. An advertising agency simply can-not be successful without successful campaigns and your campaigns are designed by your creatives, at the beart of the agency.

David Kershaw Partner, M&C Saarchi

Maurice Saatchi is a seminal figure in advertising. He utterly changed the landscape of the cessful agencies, and Agency of advertising husiness. Actually I'd say both Maurice and Charles. They were the first to create a really hig agency which was creatively outstanding. Before the Saatchis arrived on the landscape we had either British boutique agencies or huge and horing multinational companies. The Saatchis enabled the advertising agency to take the best of both worlds: they combined

and brilliant. Creatives are abitty of the small company with solutely vital to advertising the size of the multinational. Their move allowed lots of very good big agencies to flourish. The Saatchis really did hreak the mould; thanks to their entrepreneurialism they were able to smash the orthodox pattern of the old-style agency which was too constrictive for this husiness. They see nothing wrong in being aggressively creative and complement each other perfectly.

> Andy Law Chairman, St Lukes

adman is really legitimate, as But the most interesting person corporate tiller. I've seen in advertising has been Bill Bernbach who was working in the Fifties in America. I choose him because he turned his back on the conventions of the advertising industry. He took the decision to put the art directors and the

offered us a whole new organisational model which was truly inspiring. It would be more difficult for me to name someone who is around these days, as advertising has become far too conventional. Everyone lives in their cosy advertising world: there are fewer and fewer independent agencies around as they are all being bought hy the global conglomerates in the pursuit of shareholder value. And there are no more creative risk takers. However, if you were to force my hand, I'd I'm not sure if my choice of have to say Martin Sorrell who is the chairman of WPP He I don't think he's still alive. has a steady hand on a large

Martin Sorreli

Chairman, WPP David Ogilvy impresses me most out of those in the advertising business at the moment. He is exceptional hecause be started out in advertising at the copywriters together to create age of 40 which is difficult the first ever creative team, a enough to do but he went over

system is still operational. It and was a tremendous success in the US market. There are very few people in our business who have broken into and made a success of themselves in that particular market I think the main reason he was able to do this was thanks to his vision. One of the first really important things he spotted was the Internet's potential. He also has personality, which is vital - he's not just a man in a suit and he's not just a "suit" he has bridged the gap between the creative and the suit. He is successful, forceful, interesting and determined.

Maurice Saatchi

about advertising.

Partner, M&C Saatchi, The people I admire most in the industry are my joint chief executives Moray MacLennan and Nick Hurrell. As far as I'm concerned they are the best I know in the advertising industry; they know the most

> INTERVIEWS BY SALLY CHATTERTON

No

Wisdom of old can be bad for your wealth

INVESTMENT

more than 200 years ago "the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to another". Anyone who doubts the wisdom of this statement needs look no further than the business

of the National Debt. For decade after decade, successive governments have borrowed money from their citizens in order to plough the proceeds into more or less dubious ventures, from war to make-work, buy-vote schemes of little enduring value.

The long-term figures tell a grim and mostly unremitting story. If you had lent £100 to the Government in 1918, by buying what still goes under the gloriously euphemistic name of gilt-edged stock, your capital would today have a purchasing power of precisely £3.86.

Had you put the same amount of money into the stock market in 1918, your capital would today be worth £1001.60 in real (inflation-adjusted) terms. In other words, while

ARKET LEADER

sines

committing your savings to the their savings wiped out in real private sector would have grown the value of your money 10 times in real terms over the last 80 years, those who lent their savings to the Government instead have seen 96 per cent of their capital wiped out.

No wonder that Dr Johnson opined that patriotism was the last refuge of the scoundrel. Inflation of course is the big stick that wipes out value in the giltedged market. Because the coupons (interest payments) on

government stock are fixed in ad-

vance, any change for the worse in

the value of money works to the advantage of the issuer by eroding the value of the amount he owes. It took nearly 30 years of disas-trous postwar inflationary experience for the last generation to learn quite how stupid it was to lend money to an institution (government) which has at the same time abrogated to itself the power to devalue the currency in which it has

borrowed. It is no surprise that those who

terms should largely have sworn never to lend to the Government again. Yet the trouble, as so often in matters financial, is that those who live in the past are condemned to repeat the mistakes of their predecessors.

Any investor who today turns his back on government stock, or other fixed-interest securities, is risking just as much by not investing in that medium as his or her parents did when they opted to entrust their savings to the capricious care of the state all those years ago.

The latest annual historical survey of equity and gilt returns by Barclays Capital, just released, underlines quite how dramatically the equation has changed in the last decade. For headline writers, the big feature of the 1990s in investment terms has been the continued dramatic strength of the world's stock markets.

Last year was the eight time in 10 years that shares have prosuffered the indignity of seeing duced double digit returns - a



DAVIS

It took nearly 30 vears of disastrous post-war inflationary experience for the last generation to learn quite how stupid it was to lend money to the Government

decade in the last 200 years.

Yet the market performance which in truth deserves most attention in the 1990s is not the gravity-defying behaviour of the stock market - which is clearly operating at an unsustainable level of overvaluation - but that of the bond markets.

One hundred pounds invested in gilts in 1990, according to Credit Suisse First Boston, would today be worth £243 in real terms; the same amount invested in equities would be worth £275.

Allowing for transaction costs and taxes (both effectively higher on shares than gilts), there is no doubt that gilts have been at least as good an investment as shares and this, remember, in an equity bull market of epic proportions. The message becomes even clearer wben you look at the risk side

For some years now, every time a computer has been asked to crunch the numbers and produce

record of sustained bullishness an optimal portfolio, measuring that is unmatched by any previous returns on different classes of asset against their perceived risk. it has come up with the conclusion that most investors should have a 100 per cent weighting in

> However, all these optimisation exercises make the classic boffin's error of inputting historical rather than forward-looking data for returns and asset volatility.

If you look forward rather than back, and adjust for risk in a world where inflation and interest rates continue to fall. it does not require a first class degree to realise which class of investment has actually been riskier

In fact, the latest optimisation exercise carried out by Barclays Capital gives a prominent place to

For all but the highest risk takers, it suggests, even an investor blessed with 100 per cent foresight sbould have put at least 40 per cent of his portfolio into gilts and/or cash rather than betting everything he

had on the overvalued equity mar-

performances of the gilts market last year was the strong showing of War Loan.

The price of War Loan rose in 1998 and now trades at 76p in the pound, an event which it is safe to say few experts ever thought they would live to see. Now War Loan is one of the best performing investment classes of the year (perhaps, if vields continue to fall, even in danger of being redeemed, which would be something.

Nevertheless, its dramatic price recovery is a pointed reminder that those who want to maximise their investment returns must always ignore vesterday's conventional wisdom in favour of an open mind about what might happen

At the risk of generalising, nothing is usually more injurious to your wealth than to listen to the wise words of previous generations, their assumption being that the future would be altogether like the past, which of course it never is as even Voltaire knew

Should you invest in... telecoms?

S THERE still growth in the telecoms sector? Many professional investors think so.

performed exceptionally well in 1998, as investors perceived the growth potential of an industry subject to liberalisation," said David Harbage, a sector analyst with Barclays Stockbrokers. The three best performers in the FTSE in 1998 were telecoms companies - Colt Telecom,

Orange and Telewest." Ian Lance, of Gartmore's UK investment team, said: "We are keen and mobile phones. Big global comon the sector in the UK and Europe panies want telecom firms to carry for three reasons - firstly, because there are phenomenal rates of networks. That is the reason why the growth in-data transmission, sec- BT-AT&T link-up is so attractive."ondly, the growth potential of mobile phones and finally, the move to global consolidation, as shown by the announcements concerning BT and AT&T and Vodafone and Airtouch."

The fund management house Johnson Fry recently launched a unit trust specialising in global telecoms companies. Richard Neill, a trust manager, said: There is pricing pressure, but growth should be sufficient to allow for this."

Growth is the name of the game,

BY KIERAN ROOT

telecoms analyst at the stock broker Greig Middleton, said: "BT has just had very good third-quarter results. This was due partly to the increased use of the Internet. "The Internet now accounts for

15 per cent of all call minutes and BT thinks that could rise to 25 per cent next year. This is what sent BT's share price soaring last week." Mr Lance agrees. "BT will ben-

efit from the growth of data traffic calls around the world on their own

Mr Harbage said: "BT is reasonably valued. It has a good income stream and it pays a dividend that will grow in future."

BT also has 60 per cent of Cellnet, with Securicor bolding the rest. "The DTI have said that BT can

buy all of it - a bid is inevitable," Mr Harbage said. Ms Gaukroger is cautious. "BT were back-pedalling on that last week, BT's share price has been exceptionally strong and you have to ask whether all this good and two names recur, the giants BT news really justifies trading on 30 and Vodafone. Anthea Gaukroger, a times earnings for the year to March

"Newcomers are either building their own networks, or where they are using established networks, the 1999. We rate BT as an attractive stock, rather than an outright buy." regulators have ensured that usage She is bullish about Vodafone, "The costs are low. On this basis, our funds Vodafone/Airtouch deal is a good one have invested in the likes of Colt as Vodafone previously had no ex-Telecom, Energis and GTS."

posure to US," she said. Mr Neill, of Johnson Fry, said: "We "And there is a good fit in Europe. are selectively looking at the new The deal enables Vodafone to inbreed of carriers, such as GTS. crease roaming revenues' - UK sub-"They have constructed a pan-

scribers roaming into Europe and European network of fibre optics. Continental European users roam-Over five years, they reckon their ing into the UK." network could carry 20 times the Mr Harbage said: "Vodafone/Aircurrent value of all European nettouch is now a major global player. Of the "big three" established UK Its shares will be well supported by

index fund managers tracking the telecoms companies, Cable & Wire-FTSE, because they will have to douless is the potential laggard. Mr Harbage said. "In five years ble their stakes A similar process could affect the

it will be a very different company. network provider Energis. "With En-It's already hived off or floated a lot ergis now being given a free float it will almost certainly enter the FTSE of its businesses and it would be very attractive to a large US provider which wanted to expand operations There are good reasons for lookin the Far East." ing positively on the new breed of

Is the world not really Orange? telecoms companies that provide "Orange is a pure UK operator and it doesn't make money, although it will do in 18 months," Mr Harbage Mr Lance said: "We advise our fund managers to be under-investsaid. "It has good technology but it's ed in the big former state-owned neta pure play on the UK mobile teletractive share because of this."



BT: A hot topic of conversation as calls soar

SHAREWATCH

24.1

if is OW

BARCLAYS BANK shares are worth £18, according to Warburg Dillon Read, and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson also recommend the stock following the results which turned out better than expected yesterday. But some analysts remain concerned about how the bank will tackle the continuing need to reduce operating costs. NatWest Bank is favoured by HSBC Securities and SG Securities, hoping for good figures and possible bid developments.

BOOTS SHARES are tipped by the broker WestLB Panmure, which see them reaching £10 in the near future on the back of improving profits and resistance to a possible recession. Rentokil, the fastgrowing cleaning services giant, is tipped by Schroders.

HADEN MACLELLAN, the process engineers, is tipped by Albert E Sharp, who now rates the shares a "buy" at current prices after this week's profit warning, which was blamed on accounting problems in the paint division.

ORANGE, THE high-flying telecom company, is now a "sell" according to brokers CSFB, concerned that the shares bave been over-hyped in the recent rush for telecoms stocks. The shares have come off the top but have still tripled from their low point in the past year.

NO PAIN, NO GAIN: OUR MAN'S PORTFOLIO

in March," Mr Harbage said.

state-of-the-art call networks.

works, with a bias towards smaller,

Shares with appeal for private investors

stock market. There is a tendency in some quarters to present share dealing as an acute science understood only by the chosen few. Yet buying and selling shares is a relatively simple exercise which is attracting a growing army of small-time followers.

Many of the early-retired have developed share trading into a lucrative hobby, swelling the ranks of the private investor. The growth of execution-only stockbrokers as well as the continuing wellbeing of many of the smaller, establisbed stockbroking firms is due to the increasing army of small shareholders. Over the weeks ahead, I will be attempting to assemble a portfolio of shares with particular appeal to the private investor.

There are two prime types of private investor - those who are prepared to enjoy the thrills and spills of a straightforward punt and those keen to establish a wide-ranging portfolio which they hope will stand them in good stead, perhaps emerging as a second-line pension. The much maligned punter,

an essential factor in any market, is akin to a gambler, moving in and out of situations, hopefully grabbing a profit in the process. The longer-term shareholder decides to do his own thing because he fails to see the logic in paying a fund manager to do the job for him. Many fund managers do not inspire confidence and one can only express bewilderment at some of their actions.

There is also the problem

A GREAT deal of rubbish is that many investments groups written about investing in the are now so big they can hardly avoid getting caught up in investments they later regret. Their tendency to stick to the

100 Footsie constituents is understandable, but it seems that, after ignoring the undoubted value on the market's undercard for years, a few have recently ventured forth among the tiddlers.

Anyone building a portfolio should have three categories of investment - blue chips, mid caps, small caps and adventure shares. As the portfolio progresses there will invariably be a fourth category - shares which should have been sold.

Blue chips should stand the test of time. Despite various setbacks - some now see the 1987 crash as a mere blip - they have enjoyed a reientless advance over the past 20 years. Even a perennial under-per-

former like Allied Domecq bas shown some return. It has moved ahead, going from 80p in 1979 to around 450p. Last year it touched 634p. There were, of course, many better invest-

GEC

share price, pence



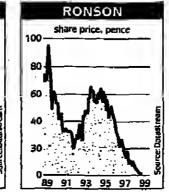
PAIN

ments but, excluding inflation, there is still a profit and the drinks group has paid increasing dividends over the years.

I think any portfolio should have a handful of blue chips which are more or less regarded as fixtures. Anyone starting a build-up should think about a modest interest in the high-flying drug and telecom sectors, but might feel that in 10 years' time Imperial Chemical Industries and Marks & Spencer will look in better shape than they do now.

ALLIED DOMECO

All the historic evidence sug-



accepting a loss.

have missed

not exist but I bet it will Too

many small investors are slow

to sell. They fall in love with

shares and eventually it

becomes too late for them to

make any realistic sell decision.

Floated as a brewery at 60p, it

got to around 80p and now

An example is Ronson.

gests they will, although both luxury goods group which Victor Kiam is attempting to turn may yet have to hit their low round. Yet quite a few still are. points. An electronics group, Each week in this column I like GEC, and a utility like hope to put forward invest-Thames Water, should also fea-

ture. Entries from the mid and small cap categories should be appeal to - and more imporgiven a rather less permanent tantly make money for - the status. They should be looked small investor. Any investor at as long-term holds but there knows that money will be lost whether he takes the longmust be a willingness to chop and change, taking a profit or term view or loves a punt. The portfolio trick is to let profits run Adventure stocks often lurk and cut losses. deep on the under-card - bright

This is easier said than done but careful selection and more hopefuls, recovery situations or spots which the rest of the importantly a broad mix of investment community may investments should ensure a profitable outcome. After all, investment or unit The fourth category should

trusts are merely a version of pick-and mix. By using an execution-only broker, a small investor, with around £30,000, should be able to build a balanced portfolio and a good return can be achieved with quite a lot less than that.

But beginners beware. The bumps along at less than a stock market takes no prisoners. Market professionals think penny. No sharebolder from they know it all and love to take the days when the shares were inexperienced shareholders for above 50p should still be in the a ride. The old fashioned "ramp" is alive and well and lurking to entrap the unwary.

I have been covering City affairs since 1958 and I hope to avoid such pitfalls by creating a wide-ranging portfolio. Build-ing a portfolio is a long-term game and, as they say in the advertisements, shares can go up as well as down.

But, as I have indicated, the long-term market move has been upwards and I see no reason, allowing for the inevitable occasional hiecup, why it

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THE OLD SAW that the value of a share can rise as well as fall has never been as apparent as in the past few months

Share prices have fallen and risen wildly, often in the space of a week, leaving many investors. large or small, unsure as to whether now is the right time to plough more of their hard-earned cash into the stock market.

Of course, we can all agree that over a long period of time it makes sense to invest in equities. But for many, there is still that fear of a looming stock market crash to hold

invest on a Monday and by Friday the value of your holding has gone down by 10 per cent.

To take that argument further, if the markets really are so volatile at the moment, wouldn't it make sense to hold off for a few months more rather than pump money into equilies immediately?

There are a number of issues to look at here. First, it is important to understand what kind of risk you are running when investing in equities.

There is "specific" risk involved in taking a risk with an individual company. Clearly, if you pick the wrong one to buy shares in and it turns out to be badly run, or the sector it operates in is going through a lean spell then the company's share price may fall.

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las No.

This is why it almost always makes sense to invest in a portfolio of shares, so that any risk may be

Alternatively, pooled funds, such as unit trusts or investment trusts, achieve the same effect, placing your money with that of many thousands of other investors.

The money buys shares in hundreds of companies, so that if one or two go belly-up, the fund itself won't By NIC CICUTTI

Personal Finance Editor

be too badly hit. There is also "market" risk to bear in mind. This is where no matter how many otherwise sound companies you invest in, you will be clobbered by a "bear mar-

This is where there are more buyers than sellers of equities: the options here are usually either to hang in there and wait for the market to recover, or sell at a loss.

There is a third option too: that of seeing that a fall also offers a buying opportunity. The lower prices After all, what happens if you are, the higher they will rise when a recovery occurs.

Of course, a canny investor might prefer to wait until the moment when the market has fallen to its lowest point before entering the market. Does this make sense?

In theory, it does. The problem lies in picking the exact moment to invest. Fidelity, the large US fund management group, carried out research on the period between the end of December 1986 and the end of December 1997, an 11-year period.

Fidelity's research over the period shows that the FTSE All Share index delivered annualised returns of 14.8 per cent.

But if you had missed out the 10 best days' growth over those 11 years, the annualised growth would have been 10.7 per cent.

Missing out on the best 40 days over the same 11 years would have delivered returns of just 5.2 per cent. In other words, investment per-

formance, while positive over the period, rose in a series of spurts. Missing out on an average of less than four days' growth a year would

have cut the average annual per-

formance to almost one third. A canny investor might agree with this but still hopes to get the in-



For many the fear of a looming stock market crash is enough to hold back from investing in shares. But, as in climbing a ountain, it is important to understand the risks when investing in equities

vestment period right, Again, Fidelity's researchers looked at the performance of the MSCI index (another way of measuring share prices) between the end of 1969 and 31 December 1997.

The study was based on three hypothetical investments made on the same day each year - at the highest point in the market (suggesting a poor investment strategy), at the low point (a "good" strategy) and at the arbitrary investment date of 1 January each year (how most of us

At the end of this 27-year investment period, researchers calculated the annualised returns on each investment date.

Here are the returns: high point, 15.12 per cent; low point, 17.12 per cent; 1 January, 15.38 per cent.

While there is a difference in returns, it is not as significant as one might assume - and it is based on getting the investment timing exactly right every year, an unlikely scenario. There is, however, one way of minimising potential losses and enhancing gains.

Making regular investments of- er is that over a long period of time fers the potential for "pound cost averaging". This means that if you buy into equities as their price is falling. you will receive more of them. In

make will become magnified. Here, despite the fact that share prices rose by 15 per cent in 12 months, the increase in the value of the fund was more than 25 per cent.

The message to take home is that. for most of us, average investors, there is rarely a "right" time to invest. What we can hope for, howev-

any sharp downward corrections can even themselves out.

And if prices are falling, then it makes very good sense to buy into turn, gains that individual funds a downturn.

> 'The Independent' has published a Guide to PEPs, which examines in detail the arguments about investing for growth or income. For your free copy of copy of the guide, sponsored by Scottish Widows Fund Management, call

Ethics are now easier to stand by

BY IAIN MORSE

NOT SO long ago, retail banking was a local or, at best, national business. Banks like the Ulster, Clydesdale and Yorkshire were independent, with hoards of governors drawn from among the local great and good.

Now the Ulster is owned by NatWest and both Clydesdale and Yorkshire by an Australian banking group. "The whole banking system, and increasingly that for other financial goods and services, has been globalised," said Glen Saunders, the managing director of Triodos Bank, "Most local banks are part of huge, international groups."

Information technology has accelerated this change, giving "convenience" banking with facilities ranging from cash machines to Internet transactions. But it also results in huge volumes of money circulating in the world's financial markets. This money pauses neither for rest or sleep, nor does it judge right from wrong. Taking part in this sys-tem seems unavoidable, but raises difficult questions of conscience for the ethically minded. "In reality, no major bank would pass even a weak test on ethical and ecological grounds," Mr Saunders said. "They all stand morally, though not legally, condemned."

The Co-operative Bank is one institution that tries to buck this trend. As many as 40 per cent of its new account holders choose its services on ethical grounds and since 1992, the bank has consulted its customers on which ethical policies they would like followed.

The Triodos Bank helps finance the development of small businesses in the Third World countries. It does not offer full current account facilities but its Tessa accounts pay attractive interest rates.

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Shared Interest operates in the same field, but as a friendly society. It accepts deposits and re-lends to organisations run for the benefit of disadvantaged producers in Third World countries. A spokesman, Colin Crawford, said: "This is not just a hand-out to the needy, but a way of: helping them to work their way out . of rural poverty. Put in the same position, which would you prefer?

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PERSIONERS CHARANTEEN INCOME NORM Series 8 49th ISSUE (tax free)		Year	£100	3.25%F	OM
STH INDEX-LINKED (tax free)	5	Year	£100	1.65%F +	OM
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OM=Interest paid on maturity. P=Operated by post. T=Operated by telephone. All rates subject to change without notice.

Please check all rates and terms before investing. All rates (except Guaranteed Income Bonds) are shown gross.

'Small caps' beat Footsie

BY NIC CICUTTI

A NOTICEABLE feature of partly because Euro-conthe past few weeks has vergence seems to be gathmance shown by "small-interest rates are three cap" stocks in the FTSE 250 per cent at present. share index, decisively beating the Pootsie index of has been driving up mid-100 leading companies - at . cap stocks is a growing least until banking stocks consensus that the recesshowed signs of revival this

According to Perpetu-al's UK fund managers, tions of a ma Stephen Whittaker and in the ecooo Neil Woodford, there are three main factors driving in small to m this mid-cap performance. after almost 12 months in the doldrums.

There has been an increase in mergers and acquisition activity in the sector, which is driving up values. This bears out the view that even when the investment community has has been buying compa-

The second reason is that interest rates remain low, a factor which is particularly helpful for smaller companies. Rates may have to fall further, partly

been the sparkling perfor- ering pace. European

The third factor which tions of a mai

Prediction in which many fund managers invested, came to nothing. In fact, mid-caps have been comprehensively outperformed by Footsie giants for several years. Is this about to change?

Perpetual believes it may lan Brady, who heads the company's US desk, is not found mid-caps attrac- also predicting a broadeotive, the corporate sector ing of the market there. with less domination of large-cap stocks, particularly in the technology sector. He predicts a difficult six months, followed by an end to big cap "momentum" investment.

"If the small and midbecause the ecocomy can caps can't do it now, they sustain lower rates and oever can," he says.

COMPANY	FEMD	TARGET TIELD, %	MEST TWO	F/E CREESE	FEE, %
Perpetual	Mithly Inc	8.50	L/M	3.15	1.25
. Aberdees	Fixed int	8.48	NA	4.25	1.25
Franklagtes	European	8.00	L/M	5.00	1.00
MTC	High Yield	7.61	L/M	Mil	1.25
Schroders	High Yield	7.00	L	3.25	1.00
Jupiter	Crop Bond	6.60	NA	5.00	1.00
Legal & Bes	Crop Bond	6.25		Nel	0.50
Save & Pres	High Inc	6.14	Ĺ	M.	0.75
Fidelity	Moneybide	6.11	L	Na	0.70
Virgin Direct	Inc Trust	5.87	L	NE	0.70
MAM	High Yield	5.83	L/M	2.25	1.00
Guines Flight	Value Bond	4.97	L	Ne	0.65

COMPULSORY ANNUITY RATES

pag	80	63	79
Mate (Legal & General)	£752	£856	£1.012
Female (Stalwart Assurance)	0882	£762	£851
ARE W/F	EG/95	35/60	78/05
Jelet Life (Norwich Union)	2596	£641	£707
Escalating 5%/year, no g	warantes, mo	inthly in adva	ILCS.
	ध्याकारिक, गार इव	enthly in adva	78
	80	65	70
Main (Legal & General)	£451	£569	70 2731

BEST BORROWERS RATES

F	FIXED RA	TES -	· WITH	HOU	T RE	DEMPTION TI	E-IN
	LETELROBÉ	RATE	PERISO	MAX	FEE	INCENTIAE	MEDEMPTION PENALTY
ritannia BS	0600 525350	4.99%	2 years	95%	£295	heed for 7 year & Advs up to 90% - no MP	la ನಿರ್ಣ 100 ಮಿಕ ಚಂಗಡ
ewcastle 8S	0191 2442468		31.3 02	90°2	2245	Advances up to 95% – no tago lending tee (USP)	to 31.3 (L) 5% of 0% 2.4 mos
est Browwich BS	0121 5306404	5.25%	30.4.04	95°5	\$295	Free ASU to 1 year	1st 5 tot 5% pl num reguld

Korthern Rock	0845 6050500 3.49%	01 4 01	95°3	2332	Her-ASU for 6 months, & Adv., to 90% - no KIP	up 1:16;т. 1-о% сталтер - эм
FirstMortgage	0800 050038 3 99%	21 3 02	50%	5095	•	to 30.9 03 5% of actionne
Herwich & Phoro	01733 632635 4.99%	4 years	65%	£295		ters in Smerth allers

t be as severe as			CAPPED RATES	
arlier expecta- arked slowdown	Bristol & West		01 4 01 95% £295 Advances up to £5% - no (£3P)	to \$1,3.04, 1.5% of sum repaid
omy.	Henicy Econ BS	01752 255150 4 95%	31.1 02 95% 5295	fat from 130 days interest
ons of a recovery mid-cap stocks.	Scarborough BS	0990 133149 5 65%	4 years 95% £295	144 yor, 5% of cammepast

0500 203049 4 95% 30.4.04 90%

- 1	F	FIRST-TIME BUYERS (VARIABLE UNLESS SHOWN)							
1	Coventry BS	0345 685522	355°#	31 5 01	95%	5295	742-7 ib 13 500° - 10 810.	1/31/5/14/6/15/men	
- 1	Scarborough BS	0990 133149	4.20	3 years	95%		\$500 cash rebate	1a 5 stars 1, 0,7% at	

					5 up to 90% - no NEP	
	VARIAE	BLE DIS	SCC	עיאי	TED RATES	
Morthern Rock	0845 6050500 3 30%			•	Return yahri mentik tire ASIT S. Rehrs epin 90% - nu	1- (Gyte. か (Calathrian oguju) RGP
West Browwich B	S D121 5806404 4.45%R	3 years	85°s	2295	C50 jehale tipe MP S +	1515 years for etimer qual

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

Tree subsupon a legal free to the 10 filty of the of advances.

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of of

	SPE	FORED MONTHLY PAYMENT DO 25,000 FOR 3 YEARS								
Morthern Rock	0345 421421	954 H	With Insurance	182.37	No insurance	2165 44				
Phone A Loan (Mrishira Bank)	0500 1386898	119%	With Insurance	183 40	No insurance	£164 61				
Birect Line	0181 6809966	12.29 0	With Insurance	182 31	Mn insurance	\$165.22	_			

OVERDRAFTS

		TCCBRAL	SUTHERISEN SPE	APE	Direct Marines	SPE
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Alfrance	0.95%	12.00%	2.20%	29 8°a
Matieowide BS	0500 302010	Recaccount	0.97%	12.20%	2.10%	28 3%
Abbey National	0800 731774	Bank	1.09%	1390%	2.28%	31 1°5
						-

CARDS STANDARD

Co-operative Bank	0800 126000	Advantage Visa	7.48% N	5.90% N	Nil	FREE PEAIDD	OUTCOME
People's Bank Conneticut	0500 551055	Mastercard/ Visa	0.56% N	6.90% N	Ni	56 days	
RBS Advanta	0800 077770	VIsa	0.565% N	6,90% N	Nil	56 days	

		GOLD CAL	RDS				
mk	0800 404070	Base Rate Visa	0.4583%	10.04%	2120	46 days	£20K
	0800 126000	Adv Gold Visa	D.48% N	5.90% N	Nil	0 days	£20K
coneticut	0500 551055	Mastercard / Visa	0.56% N	6.90% N	Mil	56 days	£20K

	:	STORE C	ARDS			
		PATMENT A	PINECT DEBIT	PRYMENT BY %PM	OTHER METHORS	
a Leuis	Via Store	1,39%	18.0%	1.39%	18.0%	
ks & Spencer	01244 581581	1.93%	25.7%	1.99%	26.7%	_

ASU = Accident, sickness and unemployment insurance. B+C= Buildings and contents insurance, cont=end of month. D=Minimum age 22 years. H=1f insurance no arranged APR 12.3%. N=Introductory rate for a fimiled period. R=Rate wef 13.99. U=Unemployment insurance. MIP=Mortgage indemnity premium. All rules subject to change without notice. Please check all rates before borrowing. Source: MoneyFacts Figures complied ou: 16th Pebruary 1999

WINNERS AND LOSERS AMONG UNIT AND INVESTMENT TRUSTS

BE MUIT TROST/DEIC'S

German Smaller Cos Wis

Gartmere European Wis J. Fry Utilities Ont (2003)

TR European Growth Wis

J.fry Barn U61 Ord (2004)

Templeton Latin America Wis

BEST PERFORMING OVER ONE YEAR

Lump, Cash Init £1,000.00, Off-Bid, GBP, Net Income

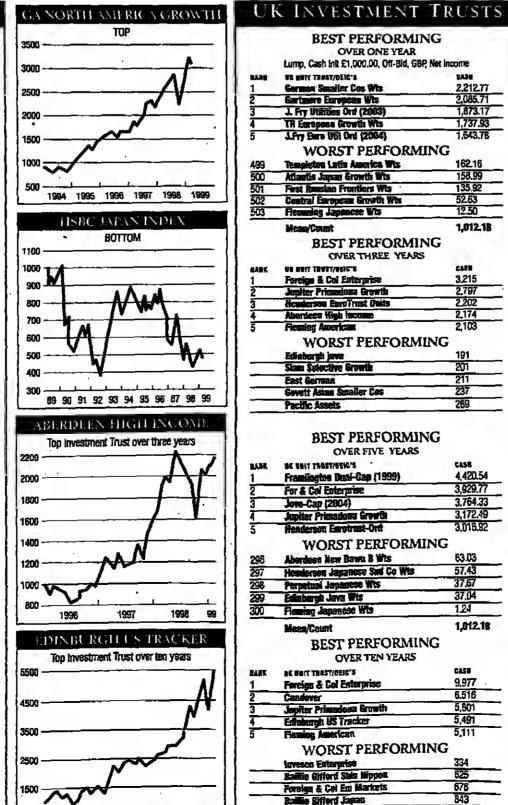
WORST PERFORMING

1,873.17

UK UNIT TRUSTS **BEST PERFORMING** OVER ONE YEAR Lump, Cash Init £1,000.00, Off-Bid, GBP, Net Income AN ARL LADEL/REIG. 1,822,97 1,703.96 1,567.07 S&P Korea INVESCO GT European Growth 1,494.18 **Baring Korea Trust** 1,460.94 WORST PERFORMING Govett Latin America Edinburgh Latin America CI B Edinburgh Latin America CI A 496.56 494.43 Perpetual Latin America 6th Scottish Widows Latin America 1,012.18 BEST PERFORMING OVER THREE YEARS ME MEST TRUST/DENS'S 2,413 2,331 Fidelity American lavesco European Growth Jupiter UK Growth Exempt WORST PERFORMING Old Muteal Thailand Acc

Figures comiled on: 16th February 1999

		Save & Prosper Gold & Exp'tion	250
111		Lazard Pacific Growth	363
		Baring Eastern	365
		M&G Gold	375
		Med pink	
4.2		BEST PERFORMING	
4		OVER FIVE YEARS	
		NK BUIT TREST/BEIC'S	CASE
	GEW2	Fidelity American	3,430.25
	1	AberdeenProl Technology	3,352.87
	2 3 4 5	GA Rorth American Grewth	3,274.87
	3	AVESCO ST European Greeth	3,114.01
	4	BIVESCO 61 ENOPOSIS GIVES	2,995.65
	5	Edinburgh North American CI B	
		WORST PERFORMING	22 22
	1133	SAP Korean	330,67
	1134	Clintoroti Latin America CI B	329,20
	1135	Edinburgh Lattu America CI A	327.79
		S&P Gold & Exploration	312.22
	1136	Gid Matural Theriand	239.20
1	1137		1,012.18
right.		Mean/Count	1447-114
· *		BEST PERFORMING	
1		OVER TEN YEARS	
		UN UNIT TRUST/USIC'S	ÇASH.
	EAUS	Aberdeen Prolific Technology	9.670
į	1	GA North America Growth	8.313
	2	Fidelity American	7.351
1	3	F&C US Smaller Companies	7.002
	4	Britannia American Growth	6.806
	5	WORST PERFORMING	
			356
		Barclays Japan	435
اکما		MAG Janau Acc	476
ן לחוב		Invesco Japan Growth	400



1989 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

500	Atlantis Japan Growth Wts	158.99
501	First Bassian Frontiers Wts	135.92
502	Central European Growth Wts	52.63
503	Fleuming Japanese Wts	12.50
	Mean/Count	1.012.1B
	BEST PERFORMING	,,,,,,,,,
	OVER THREE YEARS	
		CASH
BANK	CO MOST TRAST/ORICE	3.215
1 2	Foreign & Col Enterprise Jupiter Primadona Growth	2.797
-	Henderson Euro Frust Units	2.202
4	Abertica High Income	2.174
}	Fleming American	2.103
J		_
	WORST PERFORMING	
	Edishorgh Java	191
	Siam Spiective Growth	201
	East German	211
	Govett Asian Smaller Cos	237
	Pacific Assets	269
1 2 3	ec unit thustresc's Framington Dual-Cap (1999) For & Col Enterprise Jove-Cap (2004) Jupiter Primadona Growth	4,420.54 3,929.77 3,764.33 3,172.49
4		
5	WORST PERFORMING	3.018.92
296	Aberdeen New Dawn B Wis	53.03
297	Henderson Japanese Sud Co Wis	57.43
298	Perpetual Japanese Wts	37.57
299	Edinburgh Java Wis	37.04
300	Flowing Japanese Wits	124
	Mean/Count	1,012.18
	BEST PERFORMING OVER TEN YEARS	
BLAK	DE BEIT TREST/GEIS'S	CASU
1	Foreign & Col Enterprise	9,977
2	Candever	6.516
3	Japiter Prisadesia Growth	5,801
4	Edinburgh US Tracker	5,491
5	Figures American	5,111
	WORST PERFORMING	334
	Investo Esterprise	625
	Baillie Gifford Shis Nippes	676
	Foreign & Cel Em Markets	843
	Baillie Sifferd Japan	903
	Fleming Japanese	303

	BEST PER	FORMIN	IG UNIT TRUSTS		
	Lump, Cash	Init £1,000.00,	Off-Bid, GBP, Net Income		
		ONE YEAR	FIVE YEAR		
EAPT	SMERCIED MEIT TREST/DEIC'S	CASH	EMERDIER WAST TRUST/DETC'S	CHE	EAS
1_	S&P Korea	1,567.07	Stewart Ivery Emerging Markets	616.58 589 62	_
2	Bariog Kerca Trust	1,460.94	Mercury Emerging Markets	584 07	
3	Schroder Seoul	1,399.29	City of London Emerg Mikt Ctry	570.97	
<u>4</u>	Credit Suisse South Africa	930.27 861.86	S&P Emerging Markets Schroder Global Emerging Mikts	500.18	
5	Abordeen Prof Frontier Markets	801.00	Stratus grown thanking mirra	300.10	
Mean	Count	1,318.09			
	WORST PEI	RFORMI	NG UNIT TRUSTS		
		ONE YEAR	FIVE YEAR		
KAJE	SMEMMING BRIT TRUST/DEXC'S	CARR	EMRREIGE DEIL LARKA/DEIG.S	CARN	
1_	Boyett Latin America	516.3	Aberdeen Prof Emerging Markets	362.53	1
2	Ediaburgh Latin American CIB	496.56	Schroder Seoul	358.21	10
3	Ediaburgh Latin American CIA	494.43	S& P Korea	330.67	17
4	Perpetual Lafte American Growth	484 93	Edisthurgh Latha American CIB	329 2	
	Scottish Widows Latin American	481.01	Edinburgh Latin American CIA	327.79	15
5 Mean			IVESTMENT TRUSTS		
	BEST PERFORI	MING IN h Init £1.000.00 ONE YEAR), mid-mid. Net Income FIVE YEAR		
5 Mean	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi surgermy out trest/deic/s	MING IN h Init £1.000.00 OME YEAR CASH), mid-raid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMERRING DRIT TROST/OFIC'S	CEST.	
EAUU 1	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi suggesting out Treasposition Baring Emerging Europe	MING IN h Init £1,000,00 OME YEAR CASH 976,71	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMERRING DRIT TREST/CERC'S Barring Emerging Europe	.374.95	
£400 1 2	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi suggesting out thest/desc-n Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets	MING IN h Init £1.000.00 GME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMEMMAR DRIT TABST/CERC S Barring Emerging Europe Templaton Emerging Markets	528.75	- 1
1 2 3	BEST PERFORI Lump. Cast suggesting our most/desc/n Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer RCM Emerging Mkts	MING IN the triangle of tr	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMENUAR DRIT TABST/DERC S Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresdoer RCM Emerging Markets	538.46	- 3
£400 1 2	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi Emerging Emerging Enrope Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer RCM Emerging Mits Schroder Emerging Countries	MING IN h Init £1.000.00 OME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMENUAG DRIT TABST/DERC S Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresdoer RCM Emerging Markets Genesis Emerging Mikts (os 842)	538.46 515.36	- 3
1 2 3	BEST PERFORI Lump. Cast suggesting our most/desc/n Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer RCM Emerging Mkts	MING IN th Init E1.000.00 OME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26 685.44	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMENUAR DRIT TABST/DERC S Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresdoer RCM Emerging Markets	538.46	- 3
1 2 3 4 5	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi Emerging Emerging Enrope Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer RCM Emerging Mits Schroder Emerging Countries	MING IN h Init £1.000.00 OME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMENUAG DRIT TABST/DERC S Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresdoer RCM Emerging Markets Genesis Emerging Mikts (os 842)	538.46 515.36	- 3
1 2 3 4 5	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi Emercing energing Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer RGM Emerging Mikes Schruder Emerging Countries Central European Growth (Count	MING IN hint E1.000.00 GME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26 685.44	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMENUAG DRIT TABST/DERC S Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresdoer RCM Emerging Markets Genesis Emerging Mikts (os 842)	538.46 515.36 440.9	- 3
1 2 3 4 5	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi Emercing energing Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer RGM Emerging Mikes Schruder Emerging Countries Central European Growth (Count	MING IN hint E1.000.00 GME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26 685.44	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMERRING UNIT TREST/CERC'S Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Drasdoer RCM Emerging Markets Genesis Emerging Mkts (os 842) Aberdeen Emerging Economics	538.46 515.36 440.9	- 1
1 2 3 4 5	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi Emerging emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer ROM Emerging Mits Schroder Emerging Countries Central Enropean Growth WORST PERFOI EMERGINA BRIT TREST, USIC'S	MING IN hint \$1,000.00 ONE YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26 685.44 1,318.09 RMING J ORE YEAR CASH CASH CASH CASH CASH CASH CASH CASH	I, mid-mid. Net Income FIVE YEAR SMERRING UNIT TRUST/OFFC'S Baring Emerging Europe Yemploton Emerging Markets Drascher RCM Emerging Markets Genesis Emerging Mikts (os 842) Aberdeen Emerging Economics NVESTMENT TRUSTS FIVE YEAR EMERGING USIT TRUST/OFFC'S	.374.95 628.75 538.46 515.36 440.9	RAM
2 3 4 5 Msam,	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi Emperature entranstrater i Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer ROM Emerging Micks Schroder Enterging Countries Count WORST PERFOI EMERSINA BRIT TROTT, USIC'S Beta Global Emerging Micks	MING IN hint \$1,000.00 OME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26 685.44 1,318.09 RMING I ORE YEAR CASH 523.81	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMENNING UNIT TRRET/OREC' A BATTON Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Drassdoer RCM Emerging Markets Genesis Emerging Mikis (os 842) Aberdeen Emerging Economics NVESTMENT TRUSTS FIVE YEAR EMERGING UNIT TRUSTS FIVE YEAR EMERGING Emerging Markets	536.46 515.36 440.9	RAM
EAUU 1 2 3 4 5 Mean, Raes 1 2	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi Emparatus entratestratera Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer ROM Emerging Micks Schroder Enterging Countries Central European Growth //Count WORST PERFOI EMERGINA BERT TREST, USIC'S Beta Global Emerging Micks Aberdeen Latin American	MING IN hint 51.000.00 OME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26 685.44 1,318.09 RMING I OME YEAR CASH 523.81 477.97	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMENNING UNIT TREST/GENC'A Baring Emerging Excope Templeton Emerging Markets Drassdoor RCM Emerging Markets Genesis Emerging Miks (as 842) Aberdeen Emerging Economics NVESTMENT TRUSTS FIVE YEAR EMERSING UNIT TRUSTS FIVE YEAR EMERSING UNIT TRUST/GENC'S FICENING Emerging Markets Govett Emerging Markets	.374.95 628.75 538.46 515.36 440.9	RAM
2 3 4 5 Msam,	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi Emperature entranstrater i Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer ROM Emerging Micks Schroder Enterging Countries Count WORST PERFOI EMERSINA BRIT TROTT, USIC'S Beta Global Emerging Micks	MING IN hint \$1,000.00 OME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26 685.44 1,318.09 RMING I ORE YEAR CASH 523.81	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMENNING UNIT TRRET/OREC' A BATTON Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Drassdoer RCM Emerging Markets Genesis Emerging Mikis (os 842) Aberdeen Emerging Economics NVESTMENT TRUSTS FIVE YEAR EMERGING UNIT TRUSTS FIVE YEAR EMERGING Emerging Markets	536.46 515.36 440.9	RAM
EAUU 1 2 3 4 5 Mean, Raes 1 2	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi Emparatus entratestratera Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresduer ROM Emerging Micks Schroder Enterging Countries Central European Growth //Count WORST PERFOI EMERGINA BERT TREST, USIC'S Beta Global Emerging Micks Aberdeen Latin American	MING IN hint 51.000.00 OME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26 685.44 1,318.09 RMING I OME YEAR CASH 523.81 477.97	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMENNING UNIT TREST/GENC'A Baring Emerging Excope Templeton Emerging Markets Drassdoor RCM Emerging Markets Genesis Emerging Miks (as 842) Aberdeen Emerging Economics NVESTMENT TRUSTS FIVE YEAR EMERSING UNIT TRUSTS FIVE YEAR EMERSING UNIT TRUST/GENC'S FICENING Emerging Markets Govett Emerging Markets	\$28.75 \$28.75 \$38.46 \$15.36 \$440.9 \$2888 \$27.56 \$401.03	RAM
5 Mean,	BEST PERFORI Lump. Casi Emptermit out Treast/detern Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Dresdoer ROM Emerging Micks Schruder Emerging Countries Central European Growth //Count WORST PERFOI EMERGINA BUT TREST, USIC'S Beta Global Emerging Micks Aberdoen Latin American Estadough Isson	MING IN hint 51,000,000 OME YEAR CASH 976.71 774.23 761.66 695.26 685.44 1,318.09 RMING I OME YEAR CASH 523.81 477.97 467.89	I, mid-mid, Net Income FIVE YEAR SMENNING UNIT TREST/GENC'A Baring Emerging Europe Templeton Emerging Markets Drassdoor RCM Emerging Markets Genesis Emerging Mits (as 842) Aberdeen Emerging Economics NVESTMENT TRUSTS FIVE YEAR EMERGING Emerging Markets Govett Emerging Markets F & C Latin American	374.95 528.75 538.46 515.36 440.9 427.56 401.03 368.81	RAM

PILE	CORPOR (grass, %)	MINIMEN (C)	FRICE (pasce)	TIELD (grass, %)
Stratogham	9.38	1.000	1 <u>54</u>	6.09
Bradford	1 <u>1.5</u> 8	10,000	192	6.05
Bradlord	13	10,000	215	6.05
Britannia	13	1,000	209	6.22
Covertry	12.18	1,000	199	6.09
Leeds & Holbeck	13.38	1,000	213	6.28
Newcastle	10.34	1,000	179	6.01
Newcastle	12.58	1.000	211	5.98
Skiptos00	12.78		226	5.70
PERPETRAL RESDRONSTED BUILDS	COMPOR (Brock, %)	MINIMUM (II)	PRICE (peoce)	TIELD (press, %)
Cheitenham and Gloscester	11.84	50.000	187	6.28
First Active	11.34	10,000	162	7.25
Halifax	8.34	50,000	139 .	6.29
Halifax	12	50,000	179	6.70
Halifax	13.58	50,000	222	6.14
Bristol and West	13.38	1,000	200	6.69
Karthern Rock	12.58	1,00000	202	625

TEL: 0171 293 2222

International Tax Manager

Central London

£ Negotiable

Our client is a large multinational insurance broker represented worldwide in over 65 countries. The group services clients in the management, financing and transfer of risk by providing specialist broking and consulting services. Clients include corporations, public entities, institutions, professional Partnerships and individuals throughout the world. The company is currently seeking an international Tax Manager to provide tax advice on a day-to-day basis to business units and external advisors

The responsibilities of the role will include:

- Control of tax compliance on non UK companies.
- Management of the collation of overseas accounts and tax returns. Involvement with disposals and re-organisations.
- Advising on the transfer pricing issues.
- Involvement in the administration of a Dutch mixer company.

Our client requires a Qualified Accountant, ACA, ACCA, CPA, ATII or equivalent. With at least two years corporate tax experience, you will need a proven track record in dealing with a large group of companies. Significant exposure to international tax la essential. Interested candidates should send their CV to Elinor Campbell at Michael Page Finance,

Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN, fax 0171 831 6662 or

Michael Page

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♦ CREDIT ANALYST **♦**

Required by International Investment Bank to work within the Collateral Management Unit of our Operations Department. Responsibilities will include analysis and preparation of commercial credit submissions, reviews of collateral security and facilities, industry and country risk analysis, cash flow modelling and testing credit exposure strategles. The successful candidate will possess a business degree, coupled with a minimum or two years relevant experience ideally gained within an international financial institution. Salary

commensurate with experience. CVs to P. O. Box 21015B. Islington, London N1 2XQ

NTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION seeks an experienced corporate financier. The successful candidate will be responsible for origination, regotiating, completion and management of a wide range of investment projects in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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CV's to Box Number 21,015, Islangton, London N1 2XQ

Trainee Chartered Certified Accountants

Chartered Certified Accountancy firm bave a racancy for a bright, young graduate with some experience in the accountancy field. experience in the accountancy field. This is a trainee position with an immedia ease apply in writing to: Kay Peters 101 Backcourch Lane, London El 1LU or fax your CV to: 0171 480 7182 (No Agencies

Accountant

Central London

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With a substantial client list including a large number of the UK Top 100 and a coveted portfolio of international clients, this company is experiencing growth and success. They are seeking an Accountant to Join this fast paced and dynamic anvironment. Main responsibilities Include:

- Preparation of monthly management accounts to US and UK Partners.
- Preparation of statutory accounts.
- Extensive italison and involvement with annual auditing process.
- Continual relationship building and reporting to clients with specific information on a quarterly basis.
- Supervision of internal accounting processes and supervision of a junior accountant. Involvement in the finalising of contract with major clients.

individuals must be qualified Accountants, preferably with experience of small business accounts, audit procedures and a 'can do' attitude. An ability to lialse at all levels and extensive experience dealing with clients on a day-to-day basis is essential.

interested candidates should forward their CV, with details of current salary package to Natasha Putnins at Michael Page Finance, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN or e-mail: natashaputnins@michaelpage.com

Michael Page

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MS Research Trust Development Director

Registered charity no. 1026971



The Multiple Sclerosis Research Trust is a small, dynamic and expanding charity supporting nurses for people with multiple sclerosis, funding research into disease management and providing information to people

We require a development director to plan and implement a major new fund-raising strategy to generate support from the corporate sector, charitable trusts and foundations and other sources, to meet the Trust's substantial fundraising targets. The successful candidate will have, ideally, at least three years' experience in the area of fundraising, marketing and public relations, and a highly successful track record. Personal attributes will include commitment, creativity, an ability to work both alone and as a team member. Excellent presentation, communication and negotiating skulls are essential.

Salary around £22,000 pa

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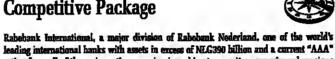
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Place of work: Spirella Building, Letchworth, Herts Please write or ring for further information.

MS Research Trust, Spirella Building, Letchworth, Herts SG6 4ET Tel: 01462 476700 email: info@msresearchtrust.org.uk

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In Manhattan, nail maintenance is a chore

MY CABBIE for the journey from thought, that grid system can be mow you down as soon as look at terribly confusing can't it, what you through their wrap around obviously been hand-picked at with Third Street being next to immigration. Some sharp-eyed Fourth Street and so on. official had spotted that his grasp of English was minimal: just: "I love this country," and: "Wherezat?". And he turned out to have no sense after a few days here, I don't blame of direction. "Go drive a New York anyone for not doing a local version

had gone.

jam into the city was probably on a moped with a clipboard. beyond my driver's control Unfortunately, locating my hotel was beyond him, too. After driving round Manhattan for another halfan-hour, it was clear he had no idea where my hotel was. Poor thing, I

Then we turned a corner and, there, more by luck than anything else, was the Waldorf, Mind you, taxi," they had told him, and off be of The Knowledge. You'd need full body armour before you'd dare To be fair, the two-hour traffic venture onto the Manhattan streets

> Apart from the potholes, the worst hazard is the in-line skaters - crouched, demonic figures all in black with urban-warrior facemasks and serious "attitood". What this means, in effect, is that they will

mirrored glasses, and I've laddered two pairs of expensive tights already from much-too-close encounters

But actually, it's not just the skaters who have gone short on the manners front. New York's the sort of place that makes everyone so impatient and rude - and it's catching. After just a few days here. I find myself drumming my fingers on the nearest surface and muttering: "C'mon, c'mon," whenever I have to wait more than a nanosec-

ond for anything.
Unfortunately for my nerves. this sort of thing happens fairly



THE TRADER

New York's the sort of place that makes everyone so impatient and rude - and it's catching

choice. Consequently, the person in front of you in the sandwich shop will be ordering "tuna on rye ciabbatta, half-fat mayo, rocket, losalt, bold the pepper, dill pickle on the side, tall skinny latte, half almond-haif hazelnut, extra froth, cinnamon mocha top" when they could be having cheese and pickle on brown bread and a Nescafe.

Suddenly I'm not s hit surprised by the story of the old British duchess who is supposed to've fought off muggers with her um-brella. She'd probably just been try-

ing to get a simple cup of tea. Then there's all the keeping up

often, since rampant capitalism of appearances. In London, you get brings with it rampant consumer your hair and nails done and think laundry at 4am if they weren't of it as a treat, and what with meeting friends for drinks, you only make it to the gym once a week. Here in New York you have your hair styled daily and regular nail maintenance sessions and

> Choice, we are told, is freedom. so how come everyone here has the look of people running on quicksand, afraid to stop moving in case they are sucked under? You'd think all this choice would make people happy. You can't help wondering. though, whether anyone would

think of it as a chore, and what with

going to the gym every night, you

laundry at 4am if they weren't working 14-hour days. It's not so much freedom as setf-serfdom.

You'd think that all this manie activity would result in manie achievement, Not if our New York office is anything to go by. There. sitting at a spare desk in the corner, I feel as if I'm at the eye of a have no time to make any friends. tornado that's whirring about me.

There must be speed in the water supply or something. I think to myself, until I step away for a screen break. As I disappear round the corner, the air behind me calms and I hear a voice say: "It's OK, she's gone. Who wants to play

Accountants harden up the value of company 'soft' stuff

By ROGER TRAPP

VALUING BUSINESSES has always been a lot more complex than it appears, even to accountants. Long before the rise of information technology led to Microsoft becoming the world's most valuable company, despite having less in the way of factories and other fixed assets than the likes of General Electric and General Motors, there was a struggle to bridge the gap between the value of those assets and the worth of the business as a whole.

Traditionally, accountants have seen the whole in terms of "soft" stuff, which they find difficult to quantify. Accordingly, when one firm bought another one that owned a collection of bousehold-name brands, the difference between the value of the target company's factories, plant and the like and the purchase price

was seen as "goodwill". However, this caused enough problems when the soft assets were confined largely to brands. For example, it became a little odd that were acquired but not when they were home-grown. Now that received opinion has it that the true value of companies such as Microsoft lies not so much in their brands as in the people who create them, the difficulties increase.

The issue is causing much soulsearching among members of the accountancy profession. A discussion paper issued earlier this month by the Institute of Chartered Accountants' financial reporting committee notes that the pressure for financial reporting to bridge the gap between the net assets of a business and the value of a business as a whole has been growing because the gap itself is widening and adds that - under existing financial reporting conventions - the cash spent on intellectual assets and brands has an adverse effect on reported financial performance.

The benefits this expenditure will bring are considered too difficult to foresee, control and measure to allow any assets to be recorded.

"Consequently, there is no way of telling from a company's accounts whether film spent on training or research expenditure has been a waste of money or money well spent," concludes the document -Financial Performance. Alternative Views of the Bottom Line. Absurd as this may seem, it is by no means the only issue worrying the committee.

In fact, Robert Hodgkinson, the Arthur Andersen partner who chairs it, believes that there is a danger that organisations such as the Accounting Standards Board have been concentrating on classification and presentation issues rather than on the main issue of establishing what exactly financial performance is and then exploring the implications



The worth of a firm's heavy machinery and factories is easy to work out. The value of people, ideas and 'goodwill' is harder to gauge

for financial reporting. The paper - which is, Mr Hodgkinson stresses. designed to reflect a broad range of opinion from the managers, analysts and academics who joined the accountants on the committee concludes by saying: "Reporting the numbers is not an end in itself but is the basis for clear communication, effective accountability, efficient capital allocation and improved performance.

In seeking to satisfy such aims. Mr Hodgkinson and his colleagues have put forward "six alternative views of the financial bottom line" - ranging from cash and historical cost to businesses at current value and market capitalisation.

Bearing in mind that the purpose of accounts is to communicate financial performance, they also look at how this can be conveyed. At one extreme is the "raw materials" approach, where investors are given various pieces of information and left to work out for themselves estimates of "underlying financial performance". At the other is the "ready made" method where managers simply report their own estimates of

how the business is performing. The reporting committee noted ses in each and goes on to propose what it calls a "twin-track" approach, on the basis that nearly users are given an overall view of what manage ment has achieved. The benefits of this approach are: All users – rather than just sophisticated investors - are given an opportunity to judge whether managers are delivering what they said they would.

Analysts are still at liberty to perform their own calculations of a company's underlying financial

performance It enables managers to carry out self-assessment exercises effectively while giving investors, through the markets, the final say. Financial performance is likely to be enhanced if management is encouraged to report on the full range of its activities using the

bases adopted by investors. The committee is not breaking new ground in proposing this sort of assessment. The ASB's Financial Reporting Standard 3 has established the notion of setting about this sort of reporting via the profit and ·loss account and the statement of total recognised gains and losses, which is mainly used to report gains and losses on fixed asset revaluations and foreign currency differences oo retranslating the net assets of overseas subsidiaries.

But with the ASB expected to review the standard shortly, the committee believes the whole area is ripe for re-examination. Among the principles it regards

as necessary for study are the idea that - because the future is uncertain - financial performance cannot be reported as a matter of fact; that financial performance reporting should therefore have the twin aims of enabling investors to make their own assessments of underlying financial performance and encouraging managers to report on their own view of underlying financial performance; and that - to meet investors' needs and encour-

age management accountability accountants need to accept that financial performance can and should be measured in a variety of

Mike Poloway

complementary ways. If that sounds like an attempt to sllow plenty of room for manoeuvre, Mr Hodgkinson is unrepentant. Just as he and his colleagues have concluded that the ASB approach of having two statements has led to one being seen as more important than the other, so be is adamant that making the balance sheet similar to an inventory of various types of assets

does not work either. "That's a blind alley," he says, adding that it is up to businesses to experiment with presenting the bottom line as it is in their interests to improve the standard of their com-

ed. Sarah Fox was involved in a Lets

scheme. "It was all a bit fey and hip-

pie-dippy," she said. "It was great in

theory but there are only so many

massages that you want. I needed

a decorator and someone to lay a

patio but no one could offer that,"

Falling prices mark out 'losing' sectors

BY ROGER TRAPP

THE BATTLE against inflation tends to be characterised as a crusade in which the goal of prices rising at only marginal rates is shared by all. But for a growing number of businesses. such a situation is bad news.

Although general price deflation in the UK is unlikely, falling prices have become a reality in certain sectors, according to the business regeneration group at Pricewater-bouseCoopers (PwC), the accountancy firm. Indeed, the group believes the UK stock market is becoming sharply divided between "deflation losers" and "deflation winners". Steel, oil and basic chemicals, along with glass, paper, textiles and agribusinesses, are among the losers. Telecommunications, information technology and pharmaceuticals are among the winners.

All of the evidence suggests that the deflationary state is likely to be permanent or, at least, long-lived.

Bruce Gregory, a director of the group, said that the difficulty was being exacerbated by some managers' apparent refusal to accept the conditions. "All too frequently" be and his colleagues were shown projections that featured revenues growing, margins growing and prices

Mr Gregory said that baving spent their whole working lives in a period of inflation, managers could not adjust to a situation in which this was no longer the case. Although PwC highlights certain sectors that fall into the losers' or the winners' camps, the dividing line is not pre-cise. An examination of the evidence indicates that service is often the differentiator.

As recenf results have shown, service organisations have seen strong growth in revenues at a time when other businesses have suffered. But service can be added to even hard-core manufacturing operations with a view to maintaining prices and improving revenues.

Mr Gregory pointed out how General Electric of the United States did this by offering training and consultancy when supplying power generators. "This has the double effect of giving a distinct competitive advantage and growing revenues."

Another way Mr Gregory sees companies using service to protect themselves in a deflationary environment is to concentrate constantly on customer satisfaction. This enables companies to compete on something other than price. Other conditions that enable companies to

be "deflation winners" include: Exploiting a critical asset that is in short supply - for example, the shortage of skilled staff in many industries helps explain the success of consultancies, particularly in IT; Developing intellectual property for example, patent protection in the pharmaceutical industry has contributed to the strong performance of this sector:

performance or design - for example. Gillette and Colgate have both been able to raise prices and gain market share through introducing products offering superior value; Compensating price decline with

Differentiating through product

volume growth - for example, Vodafone is off-setting falling prices with rapid gains in sales;

Outpacing falling prices with

Mr Gregory said that for companies in the "loser" bracket, only "swift and far-reaching change offer a remedy". They should restructure capacity through a mixture of acquisitions, swaps, disposals and exits, reposition themselves as cost leaders through innovative business systems and shift to niches where prices are supported by unique value.

Deli-dollar offers route to business funding

PASTRAMI ON rye might not sound like an alternative to hard casb but in one American town, sandwiches are replacing dollar bills.

Frank Tortoriello runs a deli in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. In 1989 he wanted to move to larger emises but the bank would not lend him the \$4,500 he needed, so he simply printed his own money.

He did not forge dollar bills - he launched "deli dollars" which customers could buy for \$8 and, at phased periods, cash in for \$10 of food. He sold the lot in a month and raised \$5,000. "Frank's customers were backing his loan because they felt they were helping him beat the bank and he was paying them back in sandwiches," says David Boyle, an alternative economist who details many other new forms of currency in his

By Helen Jones

book, Funny Money. Something strange then happened - the deli dollars started acting like real money. Parents passed them on to their

student children to make sure they were eating properly," said Mr Boyle. "Employers passed them to workers as Christmas gifts. "The minister ate at the deli and soon notes started turning up in his collection box. Even the bank which refused Frank a loan in the first place

circulated deli dollars." Frank Tortoriello's story has a feel-good folksy air to it, but alternative currencies are now used by major companies through customer lovalty programmes, phone cards and air miles. "Suddenly everybody is issuing their own money," said Mr Internet has opened once-unthink-Boyle. "Take air miles - this is a currency issued by airlines which you new money does not have to be can spend on an array of goods and services and which disappears when you've spent it. It doesn't carry on in circulation; it just gets deleted."

In the US, bartering between businesses and professionals is now worth \$8bn a year, say the futurologists Ira Matathia and Marian Salzman, of the consultancy group Y&R. Brand Futures. They add: "At the centre of the industry - which is growing at 15 per cent a year - is the National Association of Trade Exchanges, an association of business owners and professionals who have ioined together to trade surplus

goods and service." Ms Matathia and Ms Salzman be-

able global trading possibilities. But about business. Community groups are involved. A Washington law professor, Edgar Cahn, was responsible for the launch of "time dollars", based on volunteer belp in the community. Individuals register with their time dollar project what work they will do - from roofing to driving someone to the shops - and the

things they need done in return. "You can spend your time dollars on services from other people in the system," said Mr Boyle. "Or you could give it to an elderly relative who might need it more. Or you can keep it for a rainy day."

Time dollars or Lets (Local Enterprise Trading Systems) are now lieve bartering will grow because the used in the US, UK, Germany,

Japan, New Zealand and Australia. In the UK, there are 450 Lets networks with 40,000 members. The London borough of Greenwich has a full-time Lets development officer. Lets members offer everything from gardening to massage. Liz Shephard, of LetsLink UK said: "Lets offers a unique form of self-help and mutual aid, encouraging people to exchange services, time and occa-

sional goods on an equitable basis." The system is not without problems. The Department of Social Security has indicated credits earned through Lets should be treated as having monetary value for the pur-poses of calculating state benefits. Lets is lobbying the Government to clarify the situation

Another potential problem is that the services on offer may be limit- HarperCollins at £14.99

But Mr Boyle said: 'There are Lets schemes in many countries and if Lets wasn't useful, people wouldn't

join." He believes society is over-reliant on money, which can disappear overnight. "We need to underpin our lives by experimenting with new kinds of money; with different values embedded in them, which are more reliable in difficult times," he said. "It worked for Frank Tortoriello."

Funny Money: In Search of Alter-native Cash' is published by

PARTNERS

DICK POWELL AND RICHARD SEYMOUR

The two founders of the industrial design firm Seymour Powell met after completing art college. Their company now employs nearly 30 people and its clients include BMW and Casio. The pair are also broadcasters, having made the Channel 4 series 'Designs on Your...'

actually know each other at the Royal College of Art. I was doing industrial design and Richard was doing graphics. When I went back the following year to look at the degree shows. I saw his. It was more product than graphic. For example, he had a poster to warn people in factories about dust, printed as a sticky film. The more dust, the more the message became visible.

Meanwhile, I had set up in business and was lecturing part-time on a foundation course in St Albans. Richard did the same, and I got to know him as we both rode motorcycles. We used to travel up and down together.

Richard was in advertising. I was a product designer: he was a graphic designer. The skills you need are completely different, and graphic designers who have switched into industrial design are rare, because of the knowledge needed. But Richard obviously had that sort of

Then I left my firm, so I was working on my own. Richard was getting fed up with advertising, saying: "All I am is a glorified Filofax. There's no sense of permanence to anything we do. It's all so ephemeral and translent. Who gives a stuff about this or that ad? If I ever get really fed-up, can I come and rent desk-space from you?"

I had a bit of spare space and I said "sure". One year, I think it was 1980, I came back from holiday and found Richard had moved in.

As you do when you are working with people in one room, you say: "What do you think of this?" He has an unbelievable drawing tal-

ent; a kind of on-board CAD system.

ICK POWELL: We didn't Let me give you an example: my parents moved out of their house and I wanted to draw it, but just it's wrong, you have to say so and couldn't remember the details. Richard had been there once, for two bours. He said: "It's okay, I'll achieve: when the managing didraw it." He could just pull it back out, because he has a photographic memory.

We were working together on projects, but because both of us had been burnt in previous businesses. we didn't want to have partners ever again. After three years of gradually growing together, though, we later formalised the arrangement as Seymour Powell Ltd. We were working together in the best way partners can. It was by osmosis; his thinking was penetrating mine, and vice versa. First we set up a holding company, a shell which allowed us both to run our own business without the complexities of getting together. It was only two years later that we incorporated it.

Richard learnt a lot about bow to be a product designer from me. For the first few years, what I said tended to be what went. But that gradually disappeared as he very quickly learnt bow everything worked

We sit opposite each other at what used to be called a "partner's desk". We have our own entrances and we are both very messy. We hardly ever see each other socially outside of a design context. But there's an awful lot about Richard I admire. He's a polymath, a very smart guy with a huge intellect. He's brilliant at telling jokes. I was the guy who used to remember them and he was the guy wbo told them.

We laid down the rules at the be-

ginning for example, if something is bothering you because you think rector of Sony is thinking of using a design company one of the first three names he'll think of will be

Our relationship is a bit like a marriage - you need a sort of open understanding. There's no room for any kind of Machiav Ilian intrigue. We don't disagree about much. Eventually we will hammer out a solution. I tend to do more of the running of the business, and I'm more product-focused. Richard is interested in the wider issues and tends to let go of the structure. There have been occasions when I have had to shout "What's going on here? This can't go on."

ICHARD SEYMOUR: The first time we consciously met was in the supplies cupboard at St Albans. We got chatting and it turned out we took a similar route. It was a transportational imperative that threw us together. We occasionally got together early on Sundays to drive our remote controlled models in Battersea Park. I put the remotecontrol system into my motor bike; I hadn't realised it was massively illegal, but it used to amuse us outside pubs occasionally.

Dick has got an extremely good memory. We'd go to a client do and he would have in his mind the database of jokes and it would be my job to deliver them. When people say, "a 16-year partnership, wow, that's amazing", I think, "it is, actually". How has it hung together so long, vertising..." He came back from a cal precision whereas I am much



Powell (left) and Seymour: 'Our relationship is a bit like a marriage - you need a sort of open understanding' Nicola Kurtz

especially as we are both so competitive? It's not destructive, though it's in a sort of relay. We always have to come up with one better

I have learnt professionalism from Dick, who has a very strict streak a sense of how it should be. That was quite a strong matrix within which to work. He would produce five options, each completely worked through, whereas others would do one. I can't imagine a better business partner than Dick Powell. He is scrupulously honest.

Although I trained as a graphic

designer, I went into advertising and then film production design. But I was fed up of working my nuts off to create something that evaporated. More often than not we were compensating for the inadequacies in the product itself. Dick had taken on a property probably a little bit large for him and said: "Any time you want to leave ad-

holiday one day to find me. That more of a wet-finger merchant. was the crucible where Seymour Powell formed. Dick came in one

morning and said: "Look. Tve got this idea. I think we should form a company together. I think we should call it Seymour Powell." I thought, here's how to win a man over with my name at the beginning. When I am being brutally honest I describe myself as a hitchhiker. My thumb was out and off we went. Because of Dick's strictness, there were rules involved: we should concentrate on product design, and not entertain other disciplines. But product design is a very broad discipline. It's like a big playground.

Using phrases like "manage-ment style" to me is, like, "what the hell does that mean?". Dick is much better at formal management. He manages to keep his desk tidier. He goes to levels of great mathemati-

But we lead from the front.

The desk is a model for the company. We're like weathermen. The nice thing about having two of us is that a client can cleave to one or the other. I'm not the most conventional looking person in the world. But the wonderful thing for me is that I can just be exactly how I am and it doesn't seem to matter. I am not a Savile Row suit wearer. If I wasn't working with Dick, I would probably be in an entirely different discipline. For some reason, I had a three or four-year attention span. I did a book with Michael Palin, the world's first children's hologram book it sold 300,000 in hardback and was translated into 11 languages. If the partnership with Dick hadn't been so strong, I would have said "Books! Career! Change again!"

Dick and I work in very different ways. He sets up a dialogue on

paper. You can follow the genealogy and see his brain at work. My dialogue is internal. When Dick and I first worked together we would be sitting at the table, and he would be drawing, drawing, drawing and he would say: "For God's sake, draw something." I would say, "I am". Then the stuff would come out. I think he still finds it a curiosity. My sort of cathartic mechanism is great when it comes to putting down a believable concept, but it's absolutely hopeless for detail.

When we formed Seymour Powell, my knowledge of product design could be written on the back of a fag packet. Eric Cantona didn't say this, but be could have done: "A kite can only fly because it's attached to a string." One tends to think of restraint as a force that reduces effectiveness but in this particular case restraint allows it to flow.

INTERVIEWS BY RACHELLE THACKRAY



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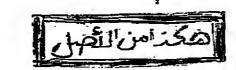
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*THE INDEPENDENT



WEDNESDAYREVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



The man below is a British citizen. He is standing trial as a war criminal. The jury is now in Belarus, tracing the path he is alleged to have taken to the forest where 2,700 Jews were slaughtered. Leading them there is a man who says he saw the shooting

nto Domachevo's valley of death trudged the British jurors. The eight men and four women, dressed in brightly coloured, warm winter gear, were accompanied by Mr Justice Potts in a red skateboarder's hat. They walked in single file through the snow down a forest path in western Belarus that led towards a cemetery where 2,800

Jews lie buried in mass graves.

The jurors' guide was an elderly Belarussian man named Fedor Zan – still ramrod straight at 75 – who was dressed in a Soviet-era brown plastic coat, a fur hat perched oo his head. Mr Zan is a man seeking justice for the alleged crimes of 57 years ago in the summer and autumn of 1942 when the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union and overran this border village, wiping out its Jewish population – with the help of locally recruited policemen.

Mr Zan is a former school friend of Anthony Sawoniuk, the defendant in Britain's first Nazi war crimes trial. He led the jurors, judge and legal officials through the snow-covered forest, with the freezing wind blowing oo their faces, to the scene

of the alleged crimes.

But this was more than a trudge through Belarus snowdrifts, it was a journey into the past and the horrors of the Holocaust. To witness this journey, a British court has been moved from the Old Bailey to this border town.

Mr Sawoniuk, a retired British Rail ticket collector aged 77 and from south London, is charged with four counts of murder during the Holocaust, and ough the prosecution alleges that he murdered 20 Jews between 19 September and 31 December 1942. He is the first person to come to trial for war crimes since Parliament passed legislation in 1991 that allowed police to start murder investigations for crimes allegedly committed during the Second World War by people who are

now British citizens.
At the opening of the trial last Wednesday, John

nto Domachevo's valley of death trudged the British jurors. The eight men and four women, dressed in brightly coloured, warm winter gear, were accompanied by Mr Justice Potts

Nutting QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Sawoniuk was one of the first volunteers for the town's German-run police force, the Schutzmannschaft, after the Nazi invasioo of the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941.

"This defendant executed Jewish men and women whose only crime was to be Jewish," he said. "The evidence indicates that the defendant was not only prepared to do the Nazi bidding but carried out their genocidal policy with enthusiasm."

Mr Sawoniuk has admitted that he was a volunteer policeman in the German auxiliary police force but has denied all charges of murder. Last week, his lawyer, William Clegg, told the court that he may have had no choice but to join the police force.

"There were lots of offers that couldn't be refused in Belarus after the German invasion," he said. "And one possibility is an invitation to join the local police." Mr Clegg pointed to the fact that the Germans executed two people in the Domachevo police force as evidence that membership may not have been voluntary.

Fedor Zan was sworn in as a witness last week at court number 12 in the Old Bailey. Yesterday he, the 12 jurors, counsels for the defence and prosecution and Mr Justice Potts made legal history. This visit to the Holocaust killing fields by the cemetery in Domachevo was the first time a British jury has travelled abroad to the scene of the crime.

Jurors have been given a potted history of the Holocaust and heen supplied with maps and photographs of the area where the crimes occurred, in the western border region of the former Soviet republic of Belarus.

The tightly organised visit has been sanctioned at the highest level in the capital Minsk, with which Britain and other EU member states only recently re-established diplomatic relations.

The three-coach party of jurors, court officials and the accompanying press, has been provided with police escorts at every stage of their journey, while



militiamen bark orders at local inhabitants through megaphones, not to impede the progress of the party. Even the crossing at the notoriously slow Polish border was speeded up as our coaches were put through the diplomatic channel.

In its heyday before the war Domachevo was a popular spa town, where guests swam in the near-

BY ADAM LEBOR

by river Bug and enjoyed taking the waters, while staying at one of the many formerly Jewish-run guesthouses. Like many towns and villages in these long-contested border regions of Eastern Europe, Domachevo hears the marks of the many competing empires that have ruled here. Some elderly inhabitants grew up in tsarist Russia, spent part of their childhoods in independent Poland, suffered under the rule of the Nazis, survived for decades

under the Soviets, and are now living as citizens of an independent Belarus.

But much remains here of Soviet rule. Red stars and war memorials to the millions of Soviet soldiers who lost their lives fighting against the Nazis are commonplace. Local shops are meagrely stocked and many of the inhabitants of Domachevo's attractive, peasant-style wooden-framed houses still draw their water from nearby wells.

Remnants of the Soviet era remain, but the Jews are gone, buried in the mass grave at the town cemetery. Most were killed on the Day of Atonement, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, in September 1942. Their deaths are commemorated by a Soviet era memorial, an obelisk topped with a red star that says: "In memory of the victims of the German Fascist terror 1941-45."

As was the Soviet practice, the memorial makes no mention of the fact that those who lie in the mass graves under concrete plinths lived as Jews and died for their religion. This omission was commonly made for fear that sympathy for the Jewish victims of the Holocaust might lead to support for Zionism and the state of Israel. While there are plenty of Orthodox crosses at the cemetery, there is not a single Star of David in sight.

Immediately after the invasion in September 1942, Fedor Zan says he saw Mr Sawoniuk – at the time a member of the German volunteer police force – shoot 15 Jewish girls and women in the forest.

While hiding in the hushes, Mr Zan saw "about 15 Jewish women of mixed ages with yellow badges on their ciothing, standing in front of an open grave". John Nutting QC said. "He [Mr Sawoniuk] ordered the women to remove their clothes then shot them with the weapon."

Yesterday in the pine forests beside the Domachevo cemetery in the freezing wind, flurries of snow whipping around him, Fedor Zan stood in the same thicket where he hid 57 years ago. He had hidden there, he told the judge and jury, while his former schoolfriend shot those 15 Jewish girls and carries echoes of the scream there, naked and terrified. For achevo's cemetery still haunt Britain too, and other countries mans but readily took in alles nals, giving them the sancture former schoolfriend shot those 15 Jewish girls and

women. The jurors' journey through Domachevo took them back to the horrifying events of the Holocaust as it unfolded oo the same doorsteps, and beside the same snow-covered pine trees, past which those girls and womeo had walked.

Jurors saw the house of number six Sverdlov Street, where Anthony Sawoniuk speot his childhood. A curious child peered from the window at the scrum of onlookers and televisioo cameras, while gold-toothed habushkas gossiped in the snow-lined streets about the legions of unaccustomed visitors and the militia cars escorting them across the town.

From Sverdlov Street the jurors moved on to several key sites of the trial, including the site of the former police station where, during the war. Sawoniuk's first wife was caught in crossfire and killed in a partisan attack. The building now houses the city council.

Jurors were also shown the spot where Fedor Zan saw his aunt and her family being led away from the police station before they were executed. They saw Lenin Street, the road that marks the perimeter of the former ghetto. But it was the walk into the forest, where the Jewish girls and women were shot, that was most harrowing for the jurors.

One by one each juror, as well as the judge and accompanying lawyers, walked into the thicket from where Fedor Zan said he witnessed the shootings in the nearby cemetery.

Domachevo's cemetery was still and quiet after the British legal party departed yesterday afternooo. Like Auschwitz and Birkenau, Belzec and Dachau, it is a haunted place, and it's not hard to imagine that the freezing winter air somehow still carries echoes of the screams of those who died there, naked and terrified. For the ghosts of Domachevo's cemetery still haunt not only Belarus but Britain too, and other countries that fought the Germans but readily took in alleged Nazi war criminals, giving them the sanctuary they had denied

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Secretarial

FASHION

Innocent locked up

Sir: I am dismayed by the Government's proposal to detain indefinitely and without any form of trial those whom it regards as being "a danger to the community". I have worked with people suffering from mental illness for over 25 years, and I find it difficult to accept that anyone is untreatable.

What is more worrying is the tendency of the health services and community to see anyone who acts in an unconventional manner as a risk. Is it really right that a person who has committed no offence should be detained only on the basis of perceived behavioural traits? We should remember how in the Soviet Union dissidents who were perceived as a danger to society were removed to psychiatric units and retained there indefinitely.

Whatever the safeguards the present government may set up, it is not difficult to imagine the future use of the system as a means of detaining and then ignoring those who are seen as in some way "different" or dissident. MAVIS IREDALE Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire

Sir: We are now asked to "confine", possibly for life, people who have committed no crime but might do so. The monstrosity of this proposal can only be mitigated by assurances that these unhappy innocents will nevertheless be guaranteed all those liberties denied to convicted criminals in addition to the loss of liberty.

I mean the liberty to eat what and when they please, to go to bed and get up and to dress as they please. They must have access to entertainment and recreation of their choice, the freedom to entertain visiting friends when they please, and to move freely within the outer limit of their confinement. These are the minimal liberties of innocent people.

In addition we must be sure that they receive the medical attention that they need and not that which serves the interests of the medical profession or the institution in which they are confined.

Finally we must be confident that they and the staff of that institution do not become institutionalised (as happens in ordinary prisons) because that would, of course, negate the possibility of any effective treatment.

I have sketched the minimal requirements of justice. They would cost a lot but I am sure that the Home Secretary's anxiety for the right kind of popularity will spur him on to find the money. DAVID F POCOCK Professor of Social Anthropology University of Sussex Lewes, East Sussex

Sir: Half of the people contacting our national advice service who have been diagnosed with a personality disorder have, in fact, been misdiagnosed.

Young people and people from ethnic minorities are particularly at risk of being wrongly labelled. The Government's plan for preventative detention of people with a personality disorder risks this problem being made worse.

A severe mental illness such as schizophrenia tends to strike in late adolescence or early adulthood. Left untreated, or treated hadly, it can look very like personality disorder to professionals. It is a scandal that people with such a serious but treatable condition are left without belp for an average of 18 months. The Government must make sure that there is a thorough assessment by skilled staff so that appropriate treatment is available at the earliest opportunity. CLIFF PRIOR Chief Executive National Schizophrenia Fellowship

Kingston upon Thames, Surrey

Green dogma

Sir: This week, delegates of the Oslo and Paris Commission (Ospar) are meeting in Hamburg to continue the process of creating the framework required to implement the recycling of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Women in the Ring No 3: Linda van deu Berg with trainer Billy Webster at Fitzroy Lodge, Lambeth, south London

David Sandison

redundant North Sea oil platforms. This programme us expected to cost the oil industry around £10bn to £15bn

While the prospect of forcing "environmentally bostile" oil companies to spend some of their profits on removing redundant material might produce a warm glow in the bearts of the public and green organisations, it is worth noting that the environmental evidence upon which this "green milestone" has been achieved is proving difficult to obtain.

Since I asked questions associated with this programme relating to energy balances, carbon dioxide burdens, landfill problems and the precise nature of the threat posed by redundant oil platforms in Nature some two months ago; senior green personnel have found it necessary to express regret that I have had the temerity to question the Ospar decision – for which they were largely responsible - in public. I have seen no more than opinionated historical material in

justification of the Ospar decision. I have no doubt that credible information about the different options for redundant oil platform management exists. How to obtain it, what it reveals and how it has been interpreted is another matter, given the triumphalism which has prevailed since the Brent Spar affair. Before asking oil companies to spend billions on what may well prove to be only a marginal improvement to the marine environment, perhaps zealous green organisations sbould look beyond an agenda designed to pillory the oil industry to those perennial environmental problems crying out for even modest funding.

The oil companies, the green movement, governments and the public would surely, if a review of the evidence justified it, welcome a revision of the Ospar decision to one which required a diversion of some of the oil companies' profits into sensible environmental improvement measures rather than one which is seemingly based more on environmental dogma than on wisdom and analysis, PETE WILKINSON Pete Wilkinson Environmental Consultancy Halesworth, Suffolk

The writer is a former director of Greenpeace

Genetic bullies

Sir: Successive British governments bave allowed themselves to be browbeaten by a Washington in the pocket of American agribusiness and to plonk themselves between me and my grocer: "Eat genetically modified soya, or else!"

Charles Arthur (Comment, 16 February) wishes the scientists could get into a debate currently dominated by journalists, politicians and big business, who give me assurances in plenty but few facts. So do I. That is one reason why a restriction of the ubiquitous GM soya and a moratorium on further releases is essential - it would give me a chance to catch up and catch on.

Delaying would also give us all time to assess what the longerterm fall-out might be. In this small island we have a dangerously restricted (and dwindling) natural beritage of plants and wildlife, I'd not like to see what is left wiped out by superplants or herbicides in

Sir: If the Government is not

just paying lip service to "sustainability" bow can it

agree to further building on

Green Belt sites? (report, 15

not be so keen to build on

areas were abolished or

Sir: The letter welcoming

performance of doctors was

periodic checks on the

SUSAN STEVENS

Chilworth, Surrey

February). Developers might

greenfield sites if value-added

reduced. Gordon Brown might

even suggest a greenfield tax.

tax on conversions in urban

favour of borizon-to-horizon monocultures where "no birds sing". Don't think it couldn't happen. I am just back from Costa Rica, where I saw the future as the US fruit companies would have wanted it to be. MICHAEL ATKINSON Ilkley, West Yorkshire

Sir: I would be interested to bear what legal position is, given the obvious lack of choice wben visiting the supermarket. The food industry is surely leaving itself open to extensive legal action sbould anything go wrong.

Supermarkets and those producing the GM crops should be forced to maintain a large insurance provision to cover future costs. If the insurance industry considers there to be no risk then the premiums would be minimal. Leave it to the professional pessimists to evaluate the risks. IAIN ECKERSALL Torphichen, West Lothian

Motorised hunt

Sir: It is the pleasure of Joanne Welch and Michael Silverleaf (letter, 13 February) to walk quietly in the country; of others, to drive around following the bunt. The activities are not totally compatible and I share their dislike of motorised hunt-following. But in

IN BRIEF

(February 16). Performance is not a fixed quality. After 17

hours of working, our cognition and attitudes deteriorate;

written by an airline pilot

ability to drive equates to

alcohol. Even with the

extended rotas and co-

still 23 hours. Safety in

begin with safe working

conditions. It is ironic that

reaching the legal limit for

development of ont-of-hours

operatives, a maximum shift is

medicine should, as with pilots,

fairness I have to ask; on bow many days a year do the bunt and its followers come out? IAN LESLIE Ludlow, Shropshire Sir: I am sure Mr Kidd and the 4x4

drivers be knows conscientiously avoid driving on byways with damaged surfaces fletter, 13 February). But far too many do not. Today I rode along a bridlepath that has been classified as a "road

used as a public path" (or RUPP). It was scarred with ruts a foot and more deep, and in one place a 4x4 driver bad not been content to follow in the ruts left by his predecessors but had created a separate set of his own, so that the rider or walker was faced with four parallel ruts.

A green lane I know near Essendon used to offer a very pleasant ride in the 1960s and 1970s: one could canter almost the whole way along it. Today it is so rutted that many riders prefer to go round by the road instead.

The trouble is that too many bridleways have been classified as RUPPs or BOATs ("byways open to all traffic"). ROBERT NOWELL New Barnet, Hertfordshire

Sir: Mr Geoff Wilson Getter, 9

February), writing in response to Duff Hart-Davis's feature "Two

doctors are excluded from the recent legislation. Dr JOHN PITTS nithampton

Sir: Your report on the problems associated with wild boar loose in England (13 February) raises the question why our gallant fox-hunters, so bent on freeing the country from vermin. do not swarm to exterminate this beast. Is it because the wild boar, a sharptusked creature of up to 400 pounds weight, can fight back? FRANCIS BESWICK Stretford, Greater Manchester

legs good, four wheels bad", states that only 4 per cent of the country's rights of way may be used by vehicles. That is incorrect. The vast majority of rights of way may be used by vehicles. They are called "roads".

Tough on disabled

ALAN MANSFIELD

Sir: I broke my neck playing football in 1978, which left me paralysed from the neck down and dependent on state benefits. Since then I have had to listen to a ... succession of Tory ministers labelling benefit claimants as scroungers, fraudsters, wasters and losers who sit contentedly at home waiting eagerly for the next benefit cheque to arrive.

I woke up on 2 May 1997 with a feeling of exhilaration - not because I thought the election of "New" Labour would bring a decent income for disabled people, but because I believed it would mean a change in attitudes, and the end of vilification of the vast majority of people who live on benefits because they have no choice.

Sadly, with his parroting of Tory rhetoric and talk of the end of the "something-for-nothing welfare state". Tony Blair has indicated that the song remains the same: benefit claimants, no matter what their circumstances, remain social pariahs. Indeed, the assault on the disabled in particular has intensified to a level that even the Conservative leadership never contemplated Being "tough" on the powerless may give Mr Blair and Mr Darling a feeling of political machismo, but from where I am sitting it is a chilling development.

I find it ironic that, a week after the "outrage" caused by Glenn Hoddle's implication that the disabled people are in some way to blame for their situation, Labour policy reinforces this view by intimating that the disabled are just another group who just will not help themselves CHARLES WHEELER Norwich

Mention the war

Sir: Michael Naumann, the German Culture Minister, overlooks important facts when he accuses the British of an obsession with the Second World War. Britain neither started nor lost it. For Britain, the War was a question of the defence of democracy, and of survival, not an attempt at world domination The former deserves to be remembered with pride, rather than treated as a mere foomote to the horrors of the Third Reich.

Since 1945 Germans have a horror of anything military. Any interest in matters military, in the German mind, gets all too easily confused with militarism and warmongering. The difference, however, is important, even more so in the light of Germany's new and more assertive role of participation in UN-sanctioned military action abroad. Julia Kraehling-Smith Belfast

Sir: I have been living in Germany for some years and find some British people's attitudes towards Germans rather embarrassing.

Germans have a better attitude. They play American war films dubbed into German on television, where invariably the Americans win, and no one bats an eyelid. Some of the younger generation, whose grandparents where only youngsters during the war, still feel guilt for the two world wars. And yet we British continue to perpetuate memories that should not be forgotten but handled with more

sensitivity. It is fine to mention the war in Germany, but not in the manner that some tabloids and football fans insist on doing. GEOFF DAVISON Wietmarschen, Germany

Off the rails

Sir: Your leading article of 12 February called for one of the train companies to lose its franchise. This ignores the legally binding nature of the contracts under which the companies operate.

My enforcement powers are strictly limited under the Railways Act and I can only terminate a franchise if an operator defaults on its contract. I cannot fine a company retrospectively for poor performance. What I can do is issue Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Leicestershire a provisional order threatening a financial penalty, payable only if the service does not improve. Or where I am satisfied that the breach has been remedied, I can take the route-I have taken recently and negotiate a package of compensatory

benefits for passengers.

Renegotiation of performance targets and penalties is one area on which the Government may wish to issue guidance to the Shadow Strategic Rail Authority. They may also wish to consider strengthening the enforcement powers in the forthcoming legislation. Meanwhile, I will continue to use my existing enforcement powers to the full. JOHN O'BRIEN Director of Passenger Rail Franchising . London SE1

Immortal Dawkirs

Sir; Richard Dawkins and Stephen Pinker ("At the altar of the atheists", 13 February) are wrong about souls. The ghost in the machine is a confused, 17thcentury idea that never had much going for it. They abould read Aquinas, who holds that the soul is the form of the body.

A thought experiment on this theme: broadcast a digitalised recording of Jacqueline du Pré playing Elgar into space; blow up. all worlds with atmospheres - the music is dead. But its form, exact. intensely personal, lasts as long as the radio signals radiate, which recent physics suggests might be for ever.

If we could digitalise the bodily histories of Dawkins and Pinker, they too could be preserved in ever expanding radiant arcs. Perhaps God has something like this in mind for them. WILLIAM MYERS

A candlelit dinner for two, with a blazing row thrown in

THIS MORNING I have received a letter which casts such an unusual light on British life that I feel 1 ought to pass it on to the gentle readership of The Independent without altering a word. Here it is:

Dear Mr Kington.

Yesterday, on St Valentine's Day, 1 made the mistake of taking my wife out to a romantic dinner. It had not occurred to me before, but there must be many many couples who are hoodwinked by commercial pressures into lavishing a night out on each other on 14 February, and who therefore find themselves in a restaurant inhabited solely by romantic couples. So it

The restaurant we went to had only tables for two, and all those two were male and female, and we all

stared into each other's eyes and held hands a hit for fear of looking unromantic.

It would have been terrible except that there was one couple in the restaurant who did not obey the rules. They were quite an attractive couple, perhaps in their early thirties, but they had absolutely no concept of keeping their voices down. As a result, whenever any of us temporarily ran out of things to say, our attention strayed to this pair, and their conversation.

He was Jeremy, she was Cynthia, and to begin with they just talked about the children and the au pair, but then they got on to the subject of a woman called Jenny, and the tone changed. Jenny was obviously Cynthia's best pal. She obviously suspected that there was something going on between her busband and

Jenny, and from laughingly denying it. Jeremy suddenly lowered his roice (still audibly) and began defiantly admitting lt.

"Jenny's a lot of fun," he said, which is more than can be said of some people present, who seem to have lost their fun factor somewhere along the way."
"Fun in what way?" said Cynthia

"Every way," said Jeremy. "Especially horizontally."

A choking sound rippled softly round the restaurant. It was clear that most of us were listening. But Jeremy and Cynthia couldn't care less. Within five minutes the row had escalated into a blazing argument, only ended by Cynthia getting to her feet, slapping him and walking out.

There was a ghastly silence as



KINGTON

There was a ghastly silence as Jeremy rubbed his cheek and brooded. Then...

Jeremy rubbed his cheek and brooded. Then... "Waiter!" he cried. The waiter came. Jeremy asked him, not for over like adults and all sat down tothe hill, not even for a drink, but for the loan of a mobile phone. It was brought. He dialled a number. Someone answered. "Darling!" cried Jeremy. "Why

don't you pop over?" We couldn't believe it. He was asking someone else over to finish off the ruined meal. Surely it couldn't be...?

Ten minutes later the door

opened and a lovely girl came in. "Jenny! Darling!" he cried, as if none of us were there, and they both sat down, giving us all a chance to study and comment on this new arrival. We didn't have a lot of time. Suddenly the door opened and - guess what? Cynthia swept back in! We thought for a moment there would be a battle royal, but they seemed to want to talk it

gether. It didn't last. Voices flared again, tempers frayed and broke chairs scraped back - and what do vou think happened? The two women linked arms and strode out together!

Not long after, the lone Jeremy, in tears by now, paid and went, and all the tables started chatting animatedly to each other, as you might imagine, and we all ended up the best of friends. And there it might have rested had I not accidentally bumped into Jeremy the next day in the street.

"Forgive a stranger for asking." I said, "but how did it all work out?" "All what?"

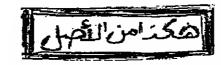
"Last night... Cynthia, Jenny..."
"Oh, that." He laughed. "It worked out fine. We got paid."

He pulled out a card. "Perhaps this will explain."

He passed on, and I looked at the card. It read: "Street Theatre and Restaurant Performers. No More Dull Dining Rooms and Silent St Valentines! Delight your Diners with a Drama! Also Murder Mysteries, etc., etc." There then followed phone numbers, etc.

What do you think, Mr Kington? Do you think that restaurants should be allowed to imitate unscrupulous BBC TV shows and foist fake fellow diners on an unsuspecting public in this underhand and deceitful way?

Miles Kington writes. Never mind about that – just let me have the name of the restaurant. I want to book for next Valentine's Day...



WONDY BUILD

Mention the war

OH the rails

Income Dankin

A small helping of humble pie for the Prime Minister

LORD SAINSBURY says that any direct financial interest that he may have in biotechnology is held in a hlind trust and is therefore above board, or at least below concern. He also says that he is an enthusiast for scientific advancement, including hiotechnology.

There's the rub. We can accept, on the evidence so far, that the Science Minister has behaved properly. We can understand that, unlike Lord Simon and his BP shares, Lord Sainsbury cannot unload his huge, hillion-pound personal shareholdings. A blind trust is the approved solution to this dilemma.

But this still leaves a minister intimately connected with the food trade, who is personally enthusiastic about bioengineering and its potential for British business, right at the heart of a government that has come under heavy fire for its policy on the issue. The very fact that Lord Sainsbury said that be had had to absent himself from a recent Cabinet committee meeting on biotechnology gives the lie to Downing Street's suggestion that he is really concerned with science and not food.

It's no good the Prime Minister dismissing, as he did yesterday, the whole furore as a storm in the media drinking-cup. The press may have made a right muddle of the science, and got itself into a lather about much that has been here for years. It could even be accused of making far more than it should have done out of a potential conflict of interest in Lord Sainsbury's case. There is something unhealthy at the moment in the press's desire to hound a man as soon as it scents blood.

But what cannot be waved away is the simple fact that people are instinctively concerned by anything that messes around with what they and their children eat. They worry - rightly or wrongly - about the safety of their food. They distrust, the more so after BSE, scientific pronouncements and the value of government assurances. They not only want testing of new technology to be carried out, they want it to be seen to be carried out. And they worry about developments pushed by large corporations.

Which brings us back to Lord Sainsbury. It is not his fault that he is embroiled in this mess. He is, by all accounts, a decent, honourable chap who wants to be left alone to do his job and promote science in industry. There is, at this stage, no reason why he should resign. Tony Blair is right about that.

But the Prime Minister must learn from this food furore. First, he should start to appreciate that people have legitimate concerns about the food that ends up in their bellies. And second, he must understand that while has shown no remorse. The Kurds are one of them. Caught businessmen can bring certain fresh qualities to govern- in their mountain homeland at the point where Turkey, ment, they're not omniscient and can lead to more trouble. Syria, Iraq and Iran all meet, they have suffered the fate than they are worth.



Some answers to the Kurdish question

THE KURDISH PKK party which has organised the mass take-over of Greek embassies around Europe, is a hard outfit. No one should be in any doubt about that. Nor should there be any doubt about the party's leader, Abdullah Ocalan, whose rapid ejection from the Greek embassy in Nairobi and extradition to Turkey has set off this explosion of protest. The leader of the PKK for the last 14 years, he is a terrorist with an appalling record of murder and torture.

that have suppressed it. There are peoplse for whom history PKK leader, oow directed at Greece. of being continually hounded by those nations.

On the whole the Iraqi Kurds have come out with a degree of dignity and some democracy, with their suffering at the hands of Saddam Hussein rightly condemned and their interests partially protected by the allies. The Kurds from Turkey have been less fortunate. Oppressed with the utmost brutality by the Turkish army, they have responded in kind, matching terror for terror. They have also, as we see now, taken their cause to Europe, in demonstrations, assassinations and hostage-taking that have shown as much organisational sophistication as ruthlessness. Seizing Greek official buildings in 10 cities simultaneously cannot be interpreted as an outpouring of spontaneous anger. It is clearly the result of a plan long laid, probably directed But, like the IRA, the PKK is a mirror image of the forces originally at Italy when it was considering extraditing the

decisively, and Turkey and Greece must be supported. control of its security forces in the east of the country and Whatever the rights and wrongs of causes, the principles deal by negotiation with Kurdish demands for autonomy. of extradition and the sanctity of diplomatic representa- That is what being part of modern Europe means.

tion are far too crucial for compromise to be acceptable. That said, Europe must also accept that the Kurds have been forced to take their struggle outside their own countries, and have the means to do so. There are now Kurdish communities throughout Europe, most of whom are genuine victims of political oppression at home with a right to asylum abroad.

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At the same time, Turkey, a determined applicant for European Union membership and a stalwart ally in Nato, must be considered as part of a wider Europe.

The one fact needs to be balanced with the other. Turkey should be encouraged in its drive to join the EU. It should be supported in its extradition and trial of Ocalan. But at the same time it should be quietly made clear that the trial must be fair, and seen to be fair and that, in the end, the The demonstrations and occupations must be ended Turkish government will have to exercise democratic

The Government must listen to our fears about GM food

WHEN CONFRONTED by a foreigner who does not speak English, it is our national trait to shout Very Very Loud in the hope that amplification will assist understanding Similarly, the Government's response to the public's failure to heed one of its messages is simply to say the same thing again and again in the belief that we poor dull creatures will get the point in the end. In the handling of public fears

about genetically modified food, however, repetition will not be enough to turn back the tide of doubt and confusion. Food scares are far more difficult to defuse than the other vicissitudes that make life fraught for governments. When it comes to what we eat and feed our families, we do not fall as readily as usual into party loy. alties, nor do we give a leader, even ooe as popular as Mr Blair, the benefit of the doubt. This is why he oow faces every Government's basic nightmare - a popular coalition of resistance spanning all social classes and political persuasions. Faced with a range of resistance that includes Greenpeace, John Redwood and the Mothers Union, the Government must realise that its damage-limitation strategy is doing everything but limit

the damage Tony Blair has prospered as a politician because he embodies reassurance. People are inclined to believe what he says; this has been his greatest political capital.When he says that he is "sure" that GM foods are safe and can lead to "tastier, healthier and cheaper products", be is

squandering this vital advantage. First, we know that he doesn't

really know whether his statement is true. Scientists are divided on the longterm consequences of consuming genetically modified foods. Mr Blair has stuck his neck out too far in the direction of unsullied optimism and therefore we take his becalming words with a pinch of unmodified salt.

In the role of Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister who owns a GM patent, is a major complication. David Sainsbury is a thoughtful and popu-lar businessman, brimming with ideas to stimulate economic growth, and a long-standing proponent of a broad centre-left coalition in British politics. He has every New Labour virtue, except, in this case, intuitive political

Lord Sainsbury was not sufficiently open about the nature of a biotechnology product he owns - one integral to the process of genetic modification - which was transferred into a blind trust three days after be entered the Government. The claim that he absents himselffrom discussions on GM food policy in the Cabinet subcommittee on bio-technology also

looks flimsy.

An odd defence is rolled out in such cases, namely that the businessmen who enter politics are too naïve to realise that there may be appearances of conflicts of interest between their assets and their new activities. The affable Minister for European Trade. Lord Simon of Highbury, was spared censure on these grounds when it was revealed that he had not declared substantial shares in an off-shore trust.

But this excuse washes less white every time it is used. It looks very grey



ANNE **MCELVOY**

When it comes to what we eat and feed our families, we do not fall readily into party loyalties

in Lord Sainsbury's case. After Lord Simon, not to mention the interminable complexities of Geoffrey Robin-son's affairs, businessmen turning their hand to government should be aware that it is not sufficient to transfer their previous dealings to a blind trust and say as little as possible about them. The more often a minister is revealed as having stashed away some interest that might affect executive decisions, the less convincing are Mr Blair's guarantees that his government is transparent and sleaze-free. You cannot simultaneously send the two messages "What you see is what you get" and "What you see is the bits of this minister's lucrative interests that are not bundled up in an anonymous trust until he leaves office." Businessmen-polittheir existing interests and assets. Downing Street says the Prime Minister is "frustrated" by the way his message is being drowned out by an alliance of concerned folk and media hype. Certainly, oo the topic of GM foods rationality is thrown to the winds. Yes, there is an outbreak of Mad Headline Writer's disease in parts of the media - first prize to The Express for an understated little number that read, "Human genes in GM food;

protests at move to 'cannibalism'". But Downing Street's complaint is a bit like Rex Harrison in My Fair Lody demanding, "Why can can't a woman be more like a man?" It is a proposition reasonable only in its own, strictly limited terms. Mr Blair's "frustration" rests on the expectation that the public should always believe that he is right on every occasion. He is in danger of believing the mythology that his message is sacred and can-not possibly be proved wrong.

This tendency has unnerved me for some time. At the last party conference, I was dining with a senior minister oo the day questions were first raised about GM foods. I ventured some worry about the cootents of my pasta. To this the minister snorted that my reservations were mere peasant suspicion of technology. He would happily eat any such products, he said. It struck me that my suspicion was based on the natural conservatism of the consumer, aware of the relatively low level of information and bargaining power I possess compared to the might and profit margins of the food industry. The minister, on the other icians must pay the price of exposing hand, erred vastly on the side of injust shouting them down.

caution because he had accepted so uncritically the Government's embrace of business. What surprised me was not so much my companion's wild abandon to experimental habits, but his cavalier expectation that the public should share it.

Eveo now, Mr Blair is pursuing the strategy of slapping down consumer doubts, rather than accepting that they exist, and answering them. On presentation, the Government has erred uncharacteristically. Using Jack Cunningham, a machine politician best known for his defence of the nuclear industry, as the front man for the pro-GM policy, is an own goal. In most households, decisions about what is eaten are taken by women. If I may presume to minister to the spin doctors, might it not be a better idea to wheel out a sturdy female to replace Nuclear Jack in the battle to convince us that eating hi-tech tomato paste will not turn us into aliens?

But presentational skills alone will does not dispel the need for a more thoughtful approach to the consequences of genetically modified food. The Government must stop telling us that we are foolish to be concerned. That never reassured anyone. Far better to tighten testing and licensing procedures along the same lines as those applied to new drugs on the market and to emphasise, even after testing, that clear labelling is essential. As Mr Blair said after his election, politicians must never forget that they are the servants of the people who put them in a position of trust. That means taking the public's fears seriously - not

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's a dreadful thing to have done." Margaret Cook, ex-wife of the Foreign Secretary, on her memoirs

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY "God in creating Man somewhat overestimated his ability." Oscar Wilde,

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ODES THE president believe ciples before negotiations prothat words on paper will cause either side to budge from its entrenched position? Congress can stop this misguided mission by the simple expedient of refusing to fund it. It should consider carefully how that power might be useful. Northwest Florida Daily

THE SERBS have been unreasonable by demanding that the ovo continues. Kosovars should sign the prin- Dawn, Pakistan

ceed further. They created the problem by unleashing a reign of terror in this province with a population comprising 90 per cent ethnic Albanians. Now they are making reconciliation and political accommodation difficult. The atrocities committed by them could easily cause their record of war crimes in Bosnia to pale into insignificance if the war in Kos-

MONITOR ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

World comment on developments in the Kosovo peace talks

ington threatening aggression against what is an independent

IT IS distressing to see Wash- the latest US threats, which, if carried out, will drive yet another nail into the dismember of the UN. It is im- integrating coffin of security portant for the other perma-nent members to take note of bours need to be wary of the

manner in which policies are driving Kosovo towards independence. Times of India

CLINTON HAS committed 4,000 GIs for a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. Congress should be involved before the president commits more US troops to another peacekeeping mission. Putting GIs in harm's way demands cauhon and approval from the people's representatives. Getting Congress's bless-

ing should have come before Clintoo promised the troops. Son Antonio News. US KOSOVO NEED oot become another Bosnia-style quag-

mire. The best way to prevent

that is to make sure that the

The Free Lance-Star, US

plan is carried out to the letter. If peace is oot the result of this well-defined mission, committing our troops to patrol the streets of Kosovo is an unacceptable back-up measure.

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW The Independent 17 February 1999

PANDORA

A NEW "currency" will soon start changing hands in the nation's shops and supermarkets. The currency, which refugee groups have dubbed the "asylo", is a voucher system about to be introduced by the Home Office as a means of giving cashless refugees the opportunity to obtain food and basic toiletries. The notes are being designed by Home Office staff; one wonders wbether they will be able to resist the lure of using the likeness of our great leader, Mr Blair, in place of the more traditional image of Her Majesty.

THE ROYAL Opera House chairman Sir Colin Southgate's speech at the Honse's topping-out ceremony yesterday was interesting not only for his continual use of the phrase "topping off" instead of "topping out". He also lavished praise on the award-winning ROH orchestra; several of its soloists gave recitals to "top off" the ceremony. Can this be the same orchestra that Sir Colin wanted to stand down for a year, under his cost-entting plan?

THERE WAS an other-worldly feeling to the EMI Songbook launch at the Abbey Road Studios, Ralph Steadman, the cartoonist, and the author lain Banks were among the celebrities who regaled the audience with their wordy wit, while examples of their ideas for album compilations adorned the walls. But in the heavens, or at least in the upstairs studio, Pandora was told, the composer John Williams and the Londoo Symphony Orchestra were fine-tuning the music for the Star Wars prequel, The Phantom Menace, Checking back with the studio, she was told by a spokesperson: "We can't say anything this week; maybe next week we will." However, the force behind the LSO confirmed the sessions which ended last night.



THE INDUSTRY Minister

corridor by the Tory MP John Bercow over why restaurant owners should pay a minimum wage to staff who receive sizeable

"My goodness, I often give waiters a £5 tip," Bercow reportedly bellowed at the minister.

Bringing his catering experience to the fore McCartney growled: "Listen son, pompous idiots like yon got a damn sight more than soup in their soup."

THE BROADCASTING Monitoring Company, a sister company of the Financial Times, is not living up to its name. Yesterday it sent some information to the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union. addressing it to Charlie Whelan. The high-profile spin doctor, who enjoyed a spot of publicity recently wheo he resigned as press secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, left the union about five years ago. Perhaps someone ought to provide the monitoring organisation with a cuttings service.

THE FORMER lover of President Clinton, Gennifer Flowers (pictured) is to dine with the Master and **Fellows of University** College, Oxford - where Clinton was a Rhodes scholar. The dinner is expected to take place tonight, two days before Flowers is due to address the Oxford Union on "Surviving Sex, Power and Propaganda". Pandora would love to be a fly on the wall at this function. Given that Gennifer described Clinton as "lusty and passionate and insatiable in the hedroom" her afterdinner banter with the mighty academics of Oxford could be highly educational,

IN A moment of madness, a friend of Pandora's bought a rabbit from a hutcher. When he got it home, he realised that he had no idea how to cook it. Taking his life into his

hands, he called up the Michelin-Gordon Ramsey not usually noted for his charm. When Pandora's friend was asked to ideotify himself, he meekly replied that he was a member of the public. The line momentarily went dead hefore Ramsey answered, and spent the next 15 minutes giving

instructions. Pandora wonders whether Mr Ramsey would be kind enough to give her advice over the telephone on how to boil an egg. Or would that be Jushing it?

Pandora can be contacted by e-mail at: pandora ā independent.co.uk

Politicians are such tragic groupies

FOR A publicity-seeking band with an album to plug, the Brits always offer the perfect platform.We will know by now whether last night's MP-studded event saw an ice bucket emptied over the head of a Labour

Last year John Prescott's unlikely effort to appear trendy was doomed by Mr Danbert Nobacon of Chumbawamba, Last night there was no shortage of potential victims - from Cherie Blair to Chris Smith. from Mo Mowlam to Peter Hain, from George Robertson to Paul Boateng. By all accounts there were up to 60 MPs and a sizeable portion of the Cabinet at the London Docklands Arena. New Labour was

rockin' in the aisles. The parent of a victim of the Troubles in Ulster noted that he had been trying for a year to see Dr Mowlam. "If I were a pop star I'm sure they'd pay me more attention," he added

You bet. There's no surer way of getting into earshot of New Labour than having a number at the top of the charts. But make sure it's the pop charts and not the classical charts, which count for far less in



DAVID LISTER

As self-made men and women, rock stars are often right-wing. selfish and materialistic

terms of street cred. Following last year's Brits, Peter Mandelson was asked, before his own exit from the charts, how many members of the Cabinet had ever attended a concert at the Wigmore Hall. He changed the subject.

Labour governments choose their stars carefully. They must have mass popular appeal and epitomise the height of fashion, cool and

cutting edge. It's in fact far from a the rock world's curious political mix New labour phenomenon. It was old Labour in the form of Harold Wilson who first exploited the public relations coup of inviting them to Downing Street soirées. John Lennon even referred to him as "that nice Mr Wilson" on television. How could Edward Heath conducting a sym-

phony orchestra compete with that? Wilson's strategy was a seemingly clever one. The coming 1970 election was to allow 18-year-olds to vote for the first time. A trendy PM with pop star mates was more likely to get those first-timers on his side. But while The Beatles were built to last, some of Wilson's other guests at those soirées had a sbelf life on their coolness. Who now remembers Kenny Lynch, a regular Downing Street visitor who repaid his hospitality most thoughtlessly by be-coming solidly middle of the road?

That's the trouble with rock stars. They, their managers and their record company bosses are unpredictable. Worse. As self-made men and women they are more often than not right-wing, selfish and

Blair has already had a lesson in

of Sixties hippie philosophy and self-centred individualism. Blur's Damon Albarn savaged Labour at a press conference devoted to Labour's further-education policy. Alan McGbee, the man who discovered Oasis, was moved to describe Labour's welfare-to-work scheme as "soul-destroying, incredibly naive, ill-judged, unfair and

Draconian, penalising the lifeblood of our cultural future". In popspeak that counts as a measured response. As does Primal Scream's Bobby Gillespie who, when asked if pop stars should go to Number Ten, replied: "Only with a pound of Semtex".

And the Cabinet has not yet responded to Jarvis Cocker's observation, not to be found in the New Labour manifesto, that "if you wanted to be in a band, or you wanted to be a painter, or you wanted to do anything, you'd go on the dole".

Logical? Who cares? Politically inconsistent? Probably. Essentially parasitic. Almost certainly. That is the core of a rock star's philosophy. And they are all the more charismatic for it. It is from politicians that we expect a measure of consistency and statesmanship, and a distancing from the mercurial, back-of-arecord-sleeve ideologies of the stars.

But there is a much better reason why New Labour should end its flirtation with pop, a Ilirtation that sometimes resembles the awestruck blind devotion of the groupie. It is not just the resentment of the rest of the arts world, though that has certainly helped lead to Blair and Smith dropping all references

to Cool Britannia. It is a gut feeling, even – perhaps especially – among Blair's own gen eration, that rock equals rebellion; that both popular culture and society in general need an outrageous, nonconforming, egocentric element with a concentration span as short as a CD single. That this nonconforming element should inhabit a fantasy world of riches, sex, poetry, all in Bacchanalian dimensions.

That Dr Mowlam is a gifted politician but not a rock chick. That John Prescott should not share a hall with Chumbawamba. That one of rock music's targets should be the government of the day. As, inevitably, Mr Blair, one day it will be.

Don't privatise the Tube by the back door, Mr Prescott

ANYONE WHO braved the Tube strike to come to my Monday night monster meeting at Methodist Central Hall would, of course, be left in no doubt over the immediate issue on everyone's mind - the undemocratic attempt to rig the ballot that will select Labour's candidate for mayor of London. However, it was also clear that the first priority that Londoners will want their new mayor to have is sorting out their daily transport nightmares. Although London's traffic was

worse than normal during the RMT's two-day Tube strike, for most travellers it was a question of just being a bit worse than the normal daily drudgery of trying to get to and from work, with a lot of the impact reduced doe to the school half-term cutting the number of cars on the roads at crucial times.

In one office after another across London, people's main topic of conwhom in the soaps, but who had the worst nightmare journey into work that morning. When you get to work, your productivity will be down owing to the congestion and the tension of the journey. So far this year I have been trapped in two hour-long delays on the Jubilee Line, and it has got so bad that I routinely have to allow an extra 10 to 15 minutes on any journey to cope with unexpected delays.

Congestion is destroying our quality of life, even life itself. Just by hreathing the atmosphere, Londoners double their chance of getting lung cancer, half of all the children who live on a main road have asthma, and every winter car furnes build up into a toxic smog that kills only hundreds if we're lucky, but thousands in a bad year. London certainly has all the worst transport problems that afflict Britain's other cities - but on a larger scale, simply because of the size of the city.



KEN LIVINGSTONE

We'll modernise the Tube, but we won't be helped by the pitiful dullards who, run the system now

This is why John Prescott has decided to let London be the test-bed for his new transport policy, giving the new mayor powers to tackle concountry can expect them.

If Loodoo can't get it right, then other cities have little chance. London also has a slight advantage: Mrs Thatcher never got around to privatising our public transport entirely, in the way that devastated services in much of the rest of Britain.

It's the fear that Labour's publicprivate partnership (PPP) for the Tube is privatisation by the back door that has provoked Mr Prescott's old union into a two-day strike. When Loodon's buses were semi-privatised drivers lost about £35 a week from their pay, causing an exodus of many of our best and most dedicated public transport servants and creating a high-turn-over, semicasualised workforce.

This strike would never have happened if Loodon Transport's chauffeur-driveo bosses had been prepared to give a simple guarantee that the PPP will not lead to cuts in

wages and conditions (although I am personally in favour of cutting the conditions of some London Transport bosses by taking away their chauffeur-driven cars and forcing them to use the abysmal service they so cynically impose on Londoners). London Transport bosses, however, clearly hope to use Mr Prescott's new finance initiative as a cover for getting rid of more staff and bump-

ing up fares at an even faster rate. Our problems arose because the Treasury wanted to sell off the Tube to the highest hidder. Though John Prescott was able to defeat this scheme, he was blocked by the Treasury from raising the £7bo he eeds to deal with the backlog of Tube repairs he inherited from the Tory government in the most simple way - by increasing London's business rate and council tax.

The PPP is the result of a compromise, although really it's just borguise. Even if the Treasury was opposed to funding Tube repairs by tax increases, there was no reason why it could not have given London Transport the power to borrow on the markets by raising a simple bond issue. It's still oot clear how much more interest Londoners will have to pay because we are going for the more expensive option of PPP.

It may be a year yet before we see the final figures, and John Prescott has made it clear that PPP will go ahead only if those figures add up. It's not surprising if, in this long

period of confusion, trade unionists have taken industrial action to defend their jobs. This has led the extreme right to demand that the Government bring in legislation to ban strikes in the public sector. This classic barmy authoritarian approach overlooks two important facts. First, in those jobs where strikes have been banned, such as



Passengers board another overcrowded train on the Tube

the police service, the state has had to undertake to pay a higher level of wages in order to make the han acceptable to those it is imposed upon. barriers just so that ticket collectors

right to withdraw his or her labour is the most important freedom the individual has. There is not a democracy anywhere in the world that does not have a free trade union movement and it is significant that one of the first actions in any Stalinist or Fascist regime has been the suppression of free trade unionism. I'm confident that in the end John Prescott will find a mechanism that allows us to modernise the Tube, but he is unlikely to be beloed by the pitiful dullards who currently run the system.

Ever since they escaped from the control of the GLC their main priority, apart from lining their own pockets with buge salary hikes and perks, has been to get rid of as many staff as possible. Conductors were sacked even though it meant a huge increase in the time huses have to wait at stops.

Tens of millions of pounds that

should have been spent on repairs to Underground track and trains was wasted introducing automatic ticket Every time I'm caught in another Tube delay because of signalling or track failure. I think about the cost of those new ticket barriers.

Although the railways allow passengers to claim money back when delayed inordinately to be really effective the cost of these rehates should come out of the salaries of the rail bosses and the dividends otherwise paid to shareholders so as to hring to bear "the spur of competition and the rigours of the market" if I may be so bold to quote Tony Blair's replacement for Clause Four.

If we could get our buses, Tubes and trains once again running for the benefit of the passengers, people would be willing to leave their cars at bome. But that is the way it must be done. Improve public transport first, rather than impose a culture of blame and penalties on the

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The dangers of paternalism

clared, with a confidence that few politicians in the developed world would claim today: "There are some things about which the Gentleman in Whitehall really does know

Whatever the Gentleman in Whitehall may have thought, most of us today think that the state has rather fewer rights to do us good without our consent than do our families and friends, and perhaps even fewer than the professionals such as doctors, lawyers and ministers of rehgion to whom we turn.

When may government pursue our benefit, as politicians or officials see it, when we have not specifically authorised them to do so?

Welfare to work programmes are sometimes described as paternalistic. The American professor and advocate of "hassling" the poor and unemployed, Lawrence Mead, has described them as "the new paternalism", because they involve coercion.

IT IS only 40 years or so since the late Douglas Jay infamously de-Typically, at least in the case

of the British government's New Deal, the justification offered is that citizens have obligations to taxpayers in a kind of social contract, only to burden them with the costs of their upkeep in emergencies and to keep that burden to a minimum. An obligation upon citizens not to harm other's interests is not coercion for

In general, it should be said that there are real risks in reinforcing weak arguments for paternalism with the nonpaternalistic argument that citizens have a duty not to dump the costs of their support on the taxpayer, or not to harm others in the way in which they live their lives. I think on balance that there are such

their own good.

moral dubes. But it does not follow that the Government has the right to use the force of law to enforce those moral duties in every case.

For example, in many cases of health-related hehaviour, the others who may he Actually, I am far from sure harmed, however, are princithat coercion in these cases is pally taxpayers, who may have



PERRI 6 From a lecture by the Demos research

associate delivered to the Westminster Ethical Policy Forum

to pick up the bill for the medical care. Now that the NHS is seeking to recover these costs from the vehicle insurance plans of the individuals' affected, the ground for government paternalism may be undermined. However, the principle states that, if individuals were to consent to the regulation - and many, it seems clear, would - it is permissible even if there are additional contractual requirements upon

individuals for any private time tonight on the pseudoinsurance they may have covering such risks On the other hand, the beef-

on-the-bone ban seems to fail several limbs of the test. It is far from clear that citizens would consent if we were told the full information available to ministers at the time it was imposed, and if the real reason was not one of public health but of oegotiating strategies in Europe in seeking the lifting of the export ban, then it is not even clear that the Government's explanation of the ban was in good faith.

The evidence seems to be lacking of great diligence in finding out what would work to prevent Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The evidence might have justified paternalistic bealth warnings or the publication of information for consumers to make up their own minds, but not a paternalistic ban.

In the last fortnight, there has been a huge moral panic in the newspapers about genetically modified foods. William Hague has declared his party to be in favour of an outright ban, and the Prime Minister has expressed alarm too. I don't want to spend any paternalism too far.

science peddled by many of the alarmists, or to devote any time to the positive environmental benefits that might flow from getting genetic modification right.

I will just say that some of the causal mechanisms of gene flow hetween species they claim to be worried about are, for all practical purposes, biologically inconceivable, and I do want to point out that no one bas ever come up with a single case of harm to buman health from any of the mainstream genetically modified foods in the supermarkets. Fundamentally, however, I

do want to suggest that we need to think long and hard before we rush to banning anything. There are good reasons for giving consumers information on food labels about what they are choosing, and letting them decide for themselves. But there is no possible justification for politicians claiming to know better than I or any other shopper or diner does what kind of food we want to eat, and banning things that many of us may well want. That is

Truth is no stranger to fiction



DEBORAH ORR

Kureishi's ex-wife reacted angrily: 'He calls it a novel. It's total hypocrisv. Nobody believes it'

WHAT ARE we to make of Roger? We meet him when he has been acrimoniously separated from his wife for a year. He has just collected his two young sons, aged fiveand a half and four from the an pair, and taken them to the park

He lets them loose in the adventure playground, then reads his paper, until it starts raining. Then he takes them to the park's café, orders them doughnuts and chats up the woman at the next table, until another woman points out to him that his two boys are at the far end of the room, rolling around on top of another boy who is screaming about being bitten. He then bustles them out of the cafe.

His parenting for that day apparently complete, he takes the boys back to their home. He has forgotten that the locks have been changed, so he and his children wait on the porch in the rain until darkness falls and their mother comes home from work.

Roger, however, has a problem, He is wearing his new chocolatecoloured suit and his beautiful new loafers, for that evening he is going to a publishing party, where he is to meet a woman he likes. He needs to borrow an umbrella, or his outfit and his sang froid will be ruined. His wife refuses to give him one, which incenses him so much that the two of them have a violent row in front of the children.

Roger has everything in common with Jay, who we encountered almost a year ago, in Hanif Koreishi's best-selling short novel, Intimacy. Jay talked us through his last night at home with his partner, Susan, before he walked out on her and his two sons, aged five and three. Perhaps the similarity of the two men isn't surprising, for Roger is the protagonist of "The Umbrella", a new short story by Kureishi published in the latest edition of the literary mag-

Intimacy caused quite a furore when it was published, not only because Jay behaved so dreadfully and so self-justifyingly, but also because Kureishi himself had left his wife and young twin sons a year before that. Kureishi's ex-wife, Tracey Scoffield, reacted angrily. "He says it's a novel, but that's an absolute abdication of responsibility. It's total hypocrisy... You may as well



Hanif Kureishi has not disguised a memoir as a novel, but used his own experiences to reveal universal truths through the medium of fiction

call it a fish. Nobody believes that lt's just pure fiction.

Kureishi's sister Yasmin also advertised her anger at the publication of Intimacy. She didn't object to the contents, but to what her brother had been saying in promotional interviews about his own life. "The memory of my father I hold very dear and I will do anything in my power to ensure it is not fabricated for the entertainment of the

public or for Hanif's profit."

Poor old Hanif, caught between two stools. Dammed if he serves up reality as fiction, damned if he serves up fiction as reality. What a good job he doesn't work too much in television, where both of these activities earn anger not only from one's family but from the media, regulatory boards and the viewing public as well. What a shame he doesn't work in Washington, say as President of the United States or something, where such matters are not deemed nearly so important. Truth really has become the most

difficult of concepts. I didn't think I could be shocked any more by the lies and doublestandards of the Lewinsky affair. But the scrutiny which the journalist Christopher Hitchens has been

subjected to has put the garnish on the BSE sandwich. Hitchens, many friends and fellow democrats have declared, must be cast out of polite society for his part in the President's hounding. What was his crime? He noticed

that Sidney Bhomenthal, a top White House aide, had bed on the witness stand, denying be had spread rumours that Monica Lewinsky was a "stalker" and "a predatory and unstable sexually demanding woman". Since Blumenthal has told Hitchens those very things, he begged to contradict, swearing an affidavit that Blumenthal had said this not just to him but to others as well. The bastard told the truth.

Rather like those bastards who made Chickens, à documentary about illegal gay prostitution in Glasgow. Everything in the harrowing documentary was true, except that the "clients" shown in the programme were not actually clients. Channel 4, which screened the programme, has been fined film for this deception, even though the people selling the underage gay sex, the actual victims with whom the documentary was concerned, were perfectly genuine.

The programme makers certainly

made a stupid mistake in not informing viewers that the "clients" were being posed by actors, but since in television, as in life, "authenticity" has become more prized then truth it's easy to understand why they did it.

But it is certainly strange that you are coodemned for including truth in fiction, you are condemned for telling the truth in the "trial of the century", and you are condemned for revealing the truth about gay prostitution. It's not just on television chat shows that we can't tell truth from fiction any more. It's everywhere.

Why should this paradox have emerged, when it seems that our appetite for truth is so inexhaustible, and our need for verity so unquenchable? We can't get enough of autobiography and memoir. Every newspaper has to have several columns about the emotional traumas of real-life people. If there isn't a "docusoap" on televisioo then there's bound to be a chat show (it may be trivia, but it must be true).

The work of politicians, actors, musicians and football managers can now, it appears, only be understood by close reading of their opinions and open discussion of their

personal situations. And the most admired artists are those who, like Tracey Emin, base their art on their own lives. No wonder there's not enough truth to go round.

Sometimes it all seems to me like pre-millennial tension, a collective hysteria, a desire to confess and be confessed to, to act out a modern version of Revelation, just in case the worst happens and the millennium really does mean Armageddon. Then I get a grip, tell myself to calm down, and think about it all some more.

Oddly, a pointer towards the reasons for our predilection for the plain unvarnished appears in Hanif Kureishi's Intimacy. Jay is reminiscing about his first days at university. "Philosophy was formal, abstract, cool. I chose it because I loved literature, and didn't want stories that had been poisoned by theorising. For me that was like food that had been chewed by other people. Jay's worry is about literary the-

ory spoiling his personal experience of literature. Ours appears broader, a worry about the things we are told being mediated, spun, angled loaded. If we deal only in the truth, we imagine, then we can be certain

RIGHT OF REPLY

DOUGLAS PARR



director of

Greenpeace replies to Charles Arthur's article on genetically engineered food.

AT LAST, issues with a scienlific background larve landed where they belong - in the political arena. The issues that confrout us with genetically engineered (GE) food are, at root, political. They are issues of power and coutrol over new technologies and the nature of future agricultural policy Sadly, the Government pretends these can be dealt with by scientific committees examining the minutiae of gene insertion.

News

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With all these questions about GE food and crop safety, has anyone looked at the alternative? In terms of what consumers want and enviropmental impact there's one winner - organic food. A paper in Nature magazine last year showed that yields of soya and maize were the same from organic agriculture as they were from intensive conventional farming. Why then does Britain have one of the lowest rates of organic agriculture in Europe?

Peter MacDiarmid

of what we see, read and hear. But

that's not right at all, as these lat-

est works of Hanif Kureishi attest.

tobiographical, but while in the

past he has explored race, class,

sexuality, his new work is, if you will,

far more intimate. Had be, like so

many other writers nowadays, gone

straight for memoir in his explo-

rations of his wantonly broken fam-

ily, all we would have learned is that

Hanif Kureshi is not an admirable

man. With that, he and his writings

to be gleaned from these new pieces

of writing, about why men do the

things they do to their children, and

the mothers of their children, and

what it is they think they are doing

to them, and for themselves. By fic-

tionalising the truth, Kureishi dis-

tances himself from it and makes it

Which is why, while truth will al-

ways be stranger than fiction, fic-

tion will always be the medium best

placed to furnish us with universal

truths. And it is the latter that we

have lost sight of in our quest for fac-

tual detail. When it comes to veri-

ty, we've already had far too much

of a good thing.

not particular but general

But instead there is much more

could have been dismissed.

His fiction has always been au-

None of this is to say that the science is unimportant far from it, it is essential. But there are limits to what science can tell us. In this, just as any other argument, you have to look at what values you hring to the (dinner) table. Science cannot answer the political and societal questions: Are gene-foods and crops necessary? What are the alternatives? How fair is it that the British public take the risks and the benefits go to an American multinational? What is acceptable risk? land there are risks - as even Monsanto's chief executive accepts). If you examine these questions, you may well conclude that we should ban GE food and crops. But coherent answers are conspicuously lacking from government. Tony Blair complains he is frustrated about the debate. Frankly, so are we. Greenpeace has been campaigning on this issue for 10 years now.

A ride on Darwin's bandwagon

IN THE Twenties, the noted Harvard physiologist WJ Crozier warned his students against abandoning "proper" biological disciplines such as physiology and anatomy for the attractions of a "soft" subject such as evolution. "Evolution", he told them, "is a good topic for the Sunday supplements of newspapers, but it isn't science."

Seventy years on, few would dispute that evolutionary biology is now a "proper" science. As the great biologist Theodosius Dobzhansky put it, "Nothing in hiology makes sense except in the light of evolution". In recent years many evolutionary biologists have tried to stretch Dobzhansky's axiom even further, claiming that not just in biology, but also in the social sciences, nothing makes sense except in evolution's light. The paradox, though, is that the more Darwinism seems to explain about human behaviour, the



WEDNESDAY POEM

NIGHT THOUGHTS AT TUNG-LIN

MONASTERY ON LU MOUNTAIN

BY LI PO (AD701-762), TRANSLATED BY DAVID HINTON

Alone, searching for blue-lotus roofs,

I set out from city gates. Soon, frost

clear, Tung-lin temple bells call out,

Hu Creek's moon bright in pale water.

Heaven's fragrance everywhere pure

emptiness, heaven's music endless,

I sit silent. It's still, the entire Buddha-

realm in a hair's-breadth, mind-depths

All bottomless clarity, in which vast

kalpas begin and end out of nowhere.

This poem comes from David Hinton's translation of

'The Selected Poems of Li Po', published by Anvil Press (£9.95)

DARWIN'S SPECTRE: EVOLUTIONARY

BIOLOGY IN THE MODERN WORLD BY MICHAEL R ROSE. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, £18.95

Sunday supplements, abandoning scientific facts for speculative theories and flights of fancy. This paradox is well expressed by Darwin's Spectre. Michael Rose, an

and a brief history of racial science. expert on the biology of ageing, wants to reveal the universal importance of Darwinism. His book is divided into three sections. The first explores some of the key conceptual issues related to Darwinian theory (such as selection, adaptation and variation) while the second deals with applic-

more that Darwinists write as if for ations of Darwinian theory (agriculture, medicine and eugenics). In both cases, the discussion is placed in a historical context. Rose provides, for instance, a potted biography of Darwin

> You would be well advised to skip all this. The biology here will be familiar to anyone who has read authors such as Richard Dawkins, Steven Pinker and Randolph Nesse, while some of the history is distinctly dodgy. Any writer who admits that one of his key historical sources is Paul Johnson's The Birth of the Modern World does little to generate confidence.

The real interest of the book lies in mits, "this type of theory patently in-the third section, in which Rose enters vites incredulity" and is "such an the debate about human nature. Rose wants to challenge traditional Darwinian explanations of human nature - such as evolutionary psychology but from a Darwinian viewpoint. Evolutionary psychology holds that much of human behaviour has been shaped by natural selection, chosen because such behaviours helped our Stone Age ancestors the better to survive and reproduce.

Such a view, Rose observes, does not capture the key aspect of human behaviour - its "spectacular flexibility". Rose proposes a new theory, which he dubs "immanent Darwinism". All human behaviour, he argues, is implicitly Darwinist not because we have specific behaviours shaped by natural selection, but because human beings constantly calculate the best ways of passing on their genes. "On this model", he writes, "behaviour is

WEDNESDAY BOOK of calculation taking place in the hrain, not by genetic evolution arising

Rose accepts that "we don't experience our mental processes as having Darwinian ends". Rather, the Darwinian calculations that underlie our hebaviour are subconscious. According to Rose, we all possess a "dynamic unconscious analogous to Freud's super-ego", except that it is driven hy a "Darwinian calculus". The neural mechanism that calculates Darwinian odds, he suggests, is located in the brain's frontal lobes. "Our subjective experiences and calculations", Rose writes, "would be like dogs on a leash, the leash held by a Darwinian master of whom we are not normally aware."

This is all good fun, as Rose constantly jumps from one extravagant speculation to the next. The trouble is that speculation is rarely leavened by empirical facts. As Rose himself adextravagant hypothesis" that it makes evolutionary psychology "attractive by contrast". Rose's theory jettisons the best aspects of evolutionary psychology-its ability to explain some burnan traits, such as language - while re-taining its more dubious aspects, including the tendency to wild speculation and the attempt to explain all human behaviour in terms of reproductive fitness.

Ultimately, Rose's vision of human nature derives not from science but from political ideology. The contrast between evolutionary psychology and immanent Darwinism corresponds, he believes, to the debate between Keynesianism and monetarism. Just like Keynesians, evolutionary psychologists have abandoned a libertarian view of human nature. According to evolutionary psychology "the behaviour of humans as producers, condetermined by an immanent process sumers, or intermediaries will be Press



Charles Darwin, the inspiration of many a Sunday supplement UPP

defined by specific behavioural mechanisms established by genetic adaptation".

With immanent Darwinism, however, "the economy becomes a kind of mêlee, barely held together by institutional frameworks, with congeries of Darwinian fiends struggling for advantage." Socialism, he adds, "would be compatible with the evolutionary psychology system", while with immanent Darwinism "there can be no peace for the social engineers". This is an argument that defies any kind of rational response. It's good Sundaysupplement stuff. But is it science? KENAN MALIK

The reviewer's book 'The Meaning of Race' is published by Macmillan

¥THE INDEPENDENT **PHOTOGRAPH**



Baby Elephant by Philip Meech Ref. 00102

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John Ehrlichman

A QUARTER of a century ago, Washington was swept up in an impeachment drama far more gripping than the sorry and sordid saga which has unfolded over the last 12 months. The President of course was Richard Nixon, who was forced to resign. The crime was not the concealment of a legal sexual affair, but high conspiracy, perversion of jus-tice and the misuse of the highest offices and agencies of American government. And a central figure in proceedings was John D. Ehrlichman, Nixon's domestic affairs adviser, confidant and fellow plotter.

Together with Boh Haldeman, the President's chief of staff, he formed what the press dubbed the "Berlin Wall" or "Prussian Guard", sealing off a frequently paranoid President from a world which all three believed was irredeemably biased against them. Ehrlichman had met Haldeman as a student at the University of California after be left the air force in 1945, and the friendship would lead him to the White House.

Their Germanic surnames were matched by the celebrated Teutonic virtues of thoroughness, organisation, loyalty and obedience of orders. They were qualities which made Ehrlichman a formidable manager of Nixon'a White House campaigns in 1960 and 1968 (as well as of the ill-fated attempt to win the California governorship in 1962), and later a highly effective hureaucrat. But they proved disastrous in the scandal called Watergate, with which Ehrlichman's name will for

ever be associated. Watergate grew directly from the 1972 Nixon re-election campaign, in which the President and his aides would leave no stone, legal or illegal, unturned to win a second term in the White House. Hence the "dirty tricks", and hence the notorious "Plumbers Unit" which reported ultimately to Ehrlichman and Haldeman, The seeds of Ehrlichman's downfall were sown as early as March 1969, two months after Nixon took office, when he set

up an in-house "intelligence capahility" to provide "investigative

support" for the White House. The plumbers were thus loosed upon the land. Their most infamous deed, which Ehrlichman late described as "the seminal Watergate episode", was the September 1971 break-in at the California office of the psychiatrist of Daniel Ellsberg, who two months earlier had leaked to The New York Times the government's secret history of the Vietnam war, known as the "Pentagon Papers". Ehrlichman - whose name in Ger-

'If I had any advice for my kids, it would be never, never, never, to defer your moral judgements to anybody: your parents, your wife, anybody'

man means "honest man" - had hroadly authorised the operation and in 1974 would be tried and convicted for the crime. Before that, however, came Watergate.

Officially the plumbers had been disbanded in early 1972, but in practice they continued to operate - with the most fateful results. On the night of 17 June 1972, five of them were arrested at the Watergate Building in downtown Washington, attempting to place listening devices in the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee. A "third-rate burglary" was about become America's worst political scandal of the century.

five were linked to the White House. Soon it would transpire that they were effectively controlled by the splendidly titled "Creep", the Committee to Re-elect the President. As the finger of suspicion pointed ever higher, Nixon was forced on 30 April 1973 to sacrifice his closest aides, requesting the resignation of both Ehrlichman and Haldeman and sacking the White House counsel John Dean. But it was too late. In August 1974 he would be forced to

resign himself, after the House of

Representatives had voted two ar-

ticles of impeachment, and his sup-

port in the Senate, even among

Republicans, collapsed.

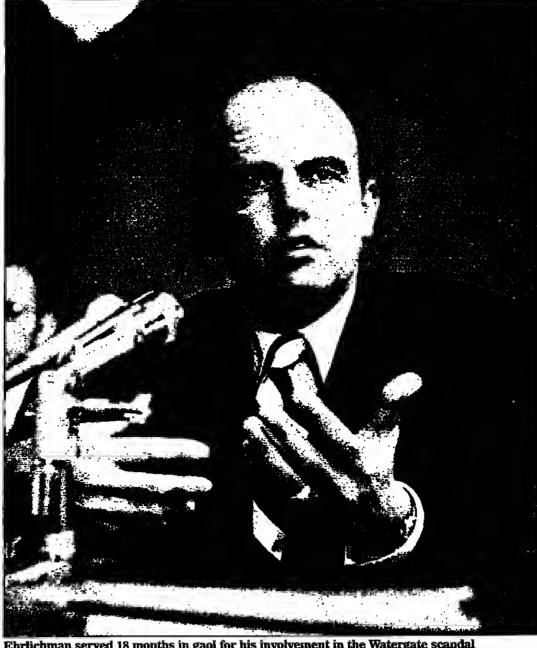
From the outset it was obvious the

By then Ehrlichman was mired in criminal proceedings, and on 1 January 1975 he, Haldeman and the former attorney-general John Mitchell were convicted of conspiracy, perjury and obstruction of justice. Ehrlichman would serve 18 months in gaol. "It is a tragedy," Nixon would later write, "that John Ehrlichman went to prison, while Daniel Ellsberg walked free." In his own 1982 memoir, Witness to Power, Ehrlichman himself offered a more downbeat assessment. "I don't miss Richard Nixon very much, and Richard Nixon probably doesn't miss me." But, as the famous Oval Office tapes show, the two were as close

as could be in the pursuit and

maintenance of power,

The real tragedy perhaps was that, when he was not plotting dastardly deeds, John Ehrlichman could be an admirable government official. Take Theodore White, no Nixon-lover, writing in The Making of the President (1972) about Ehrlichman: "His shop was one of the few at the White House where ideas were seriously entertained - good ideas too, on land-use policy, on urbanisation and preservation of the Amerlcan environment." Alas, he will be remembered not for any initiative of domestic policy, but for a couple of phrases which have entered the language of politics the world over.



Ehrlichman served 18 months in gaol for his involvement in the Watergate scandal

One was his suggestion to Nixon, caught on the tapes, that Patrick Gray, the hapless acting director of the FBI, be left "twisting slowly, slowly, in the wind". On another occasion he advised Nixon, in measuring the consequences of some initiative, to

see "how it plays in Peoria". Probably Ehrlichman was not so much dishonest, as a man convinced that his supreme duty was to serve the President, whatever it took. He conceded as much in 1977, remarking that he had brought his troubles on himself. "If I had any advice for my kids, it would be never never, never, to defer your moral

judgements to anybody: your parents, your wife, anybody."

After his release from jail, a new Ehrlichman emerged. Disbarred from returning to the law he had practised in Seattle before joining the White House, he remarried and settled in Santa Fe. New Mexico. The flint-faced White House enforcer had turned into a bearded and affahle radio commentator and occasional television pundit. He also wrote books, publishing not only Witness to Power, but four novels about Washington politics. Finally, he moved to Atlanta where he served as vice-president of Law International, an engineering consultancy specialising in the handling of hazardous waste.

RUPERT CORNWELL

John Daniel Ehrlichman, lawyer, government official and novelist: born Tacoma, Washington 20 March 1925; counsel to President Richard Nixon 1968-69; Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs 1969-73; married 1949 Jeanne Fisher (three sons, two daughters; marriage dissolved), 1978 Christine McLaurine (one son; marriage dissolved), 1991 Karen Hilliard; died Atlanta, Georgia 14 February 1999.

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Billy Houliston

IN THE beautiful late November and early December days of 1963, there was a by-election in the Dumfriesshire constituency. At lunchtime, it was the wont of Labour Party canvassers to repair to Billy's Bar in Dumfries High Street. Our host, "Basher", was a genial, five foot eleven, immensely broadshouldered man, a veritable Belted Galloway hull, with twinkling kindly eyes, from whom physical power and good nature exuded.

Heaven knows what his politics were, he never let on. But the conversation was not about politics but football and his reminiscences. Our host was Billy "Basher" Houliston, a living legend in those parts, the only man ever to have gained full international caps for Scotland playing for Queen of the South, the venerable, if umfashionable, Dumfries football club.

Houliston had been one of my boyhood heroes – and a hero to tens of thousands of other Scottish boys. He was the centre-forward in that pantheon of 1949 Wembley wizards who astonishingly and unexpectedly beat an England team 3-1, where the forward line read Matthews, Mortenson, Milburn, Pearson and Finney, not to mention Frank Swift in goal and the captain Billy Wright.

Houliston more than held his own that day against Neil Franklin of Stoke City, arguably the most commanding centre-half ever to don an England shirt. Like his predecessor, Jock Dodds (Blackpool), Houliston was like a tank, a marvellous asset half a century ago, when balls were leather. heavy and held together by laces. Centre-forwards had to be tough and "Basher", or "Rumble-them-up", as he was known, certainly was.

Houliston's father was a gardener at the Crichton Royal mental hospital, a superb set of red sandstone buildings recently created an outpost of Glasgow University. On leaving Brownhall School, Houliston became a male nurse in the Crichton and first came to notice as the thrusting centre-forward of the hospital eleven.

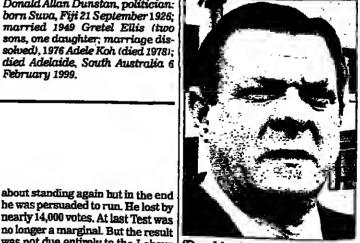
Whisked away to Arbroath to serve the Second World War in RAF Coastal Command as a gunner op-erator, Houliston developed his skills with the Arbroath club. On his return home in 1945, he joined his local team, Queen of the South, for whom he was to score 67 goals in 154 First Division appearances.

I first saw him at Tynecastle Park against Hearts, when he quickly became the opponent we loved to hate -a role he relished. My memory of him is at Hampden Park against Ireland in 1949 when he scored twice in a 3-2 victory. His flying header from a cross from Willie Waddell, later manager before the reforming Labor gov- fied by its Waspish establishment re- minority rights. After two military of Glasgow Rangers, in the dying secseen at the Glasgow ground.

The highpoint of Houliston's footcontroversy, such as when he balling career came on 9 April 1949 launched a book on homosexuality | at Wembley. Under blue skies and on an exquisite stretch of turf, Scotland, as a nun who called himself surviving a fearful crisis in the game's opening passages, stormed their way by three goals to one to gain the international championship and inflict on England their first defeat in the tournament since the war. The Association Football correspondent

of the Press Association wrote: When Houliston prepared to take a throw-in down the Scottish left wing, the second phase was about to begin. Scot-land, till now in attack, had been reduced largely to a series of long passes down the centre where, in spite of Houliston's iveliness, Franklin was in complete command but now, in their second real advance, Scotland snatched the lead after 29 minutes. Steel took Houliston's throw, gave Reilly a clever pass behind Aston and there was Mason up to stab the winger square centre beyond Swift on to the far post and into the net.

Alas, while Scotland were touring that summer in the United States. Houliston injured his ankle, and was never the same player again. After spells with Berwick Rangers and Third Lanark he hung up his boots and returned to Dumfries. Lord



Rumble-them-up

Monro of Langholm, as Sir Hector Monro his MP from 1964 till 1997, remembers him as "a great scout. As owner of both the Nith Hotel at Glencaple and the Embassy Hotel in cian: born Southampton 21 Dumfries he was immensely popular." He could say that he never

TAM DALYELL William Houliston, nurse, footballer and publican: born Maxwelltown, daughters); died Southampton 16 1949 Betty Jamieson (two sons); died Dumfries 10 February 1999.

Don Dunstan

DON DUNSTAN made more of an "Athens of the south", as Dunstan impact on Australia than any other state political leader. State politics are usually mundane affairs, overshadowed by the federal scene in Canberra. But when Dunstan ruled as premier of the Lahor government in South Australia from 1970 to 1979, the "Dunstan decade" put that state on the map with a series of groundbreaking social reforms. His was the first government in Australia to introduce land rights for Aborigines, decriminalise homosexual acts, appoint a woman judge and introduce anti-discrimination legislation.

Dunstan was a man of vision, a nonconformist who had the courage to be himself in one of the country's most conservative political environments.

The most abiding image of Dunstan is on the day he turned up for work in 1972 at Parliament House in Adelaide wearing pink shorts. He had them made, telling his tailor not to produce bloomers down to the knce but to cut them "short". Dunstan was making a statement, but it shocked many people in the "city of churches", as Adelaide was known, and even he admitted years later that he might have gone too far.

It was a shrewder political move than the headlines made it seem. It made people nutside South Australia take notice of the man who was setting out to shake his atate out of its provincial somnolence

He dismissed those who suggested he was a man in the wrong place. Despite its conservatism. South Australia has something of a radical tradition. In 1894 it was the first state in Australia, and one of the first in the world, to give votes to women. Dunstan saw himself as a man in that tradition. "This is my place," he said in his last television interview, shown the night he died.

Dunstan was born in Fiji, where his South Australian father was a merchant. He went to St Peter's College, one of Adelaide's leading private schools, and to the University of Adelaide, where he moved in theatrical circles and graduated in law. This background cast him outside the traditional working-class mould of the Labor Party at the time he joined it. He stood for state parliament at the age of 26 and won the Adelaide constituency of Norwood,

The LCL ruled South Australia from 1933 until Labor unseated it in 1965. The conservatives staved in power for these 32 unbroken years through a hiatant gerrymander of the electoral boundaries that gave undue weight to their base in sparsely populated country seats. Dunstan made reform of this his priority. He had already shown his credentials as a reformer at the Labor Party's 1965 national conference when he successfully pushed through a mo-



a stronghold of the conservative Lib-

eral Country League (LCL), in 1953. tion to drop the racially discimina-



tory White Australia immigration policy from its platform.

In South Australia, Dunstan had a brief stint as premier when he took over the Labor Party leadership in 1967. His government lost office after an election the following year produced a hung parliament. Under reformed and fairer electoral boundaries, Dunstan led Labor back to power in 1970, and the Dunstan decade began.

We'll set a standard of social advancement that the whole of Australia will envy," he declared. "We believe South Australia can set the pace." He was right. Elsewhere, Australian public life was still gripped by conservatism. Dunstan came to power two years ernment of Gougn office in Canberra.

His changes embraced not just personal freedoms, but the education system, urban planning and consumer protection. He appointed the first Aborigine. Sir Douglas Nicholls. to the vice-regal office of state governor. And he turned Adelaide into a national centre for the performing arts by huilding a state theatre centre and fostering cultural enterprises. People such as Rudolf Nureyev and Lord Snowdon visited the Adelaide artistic salon revolving around Dunstan and his second wife, Adele Koh.

Dunstan was the first political leader in Australia to understand and use the media as a marketing tool for his own message. When a clairvoyant once predicted that Adelaide would be swamped by a tidal wave, Dunstan went to Glenelg Beach on the appointed day to mix with anxious crowds. He walked through Adelaide streets with a loudspeaker appealing for calm to depositors gathered outside a building society said to be in trouble. He published his own cook hook, and talked up the wines from South Australia's now world famous vineyards. At one point, Dunstan'a approval rating soared to 83 per cent. Radio stations played a song called "Our Don Dunstan", fashioned after one about another prominent South Australian, "Our Don Bradman".

How Dunstan brought such a revolution to a society once identi-

mains one of the spectacul stories of Australian politics. The key, perhaps, was his unadorned style. Dunstan could communicate with those less educated and articulate and make them feel included, a rare skill in leaders. Although he was more radical than the party he led. he never forgot, as he told one newspaper, that he had to carry the party with him. Even conservative South Australians admired him in the end, and got swept along in their state's new image. Then it all

came unstuck. In 1978 Dunstan sacked Harold Salisbury, the state police commissioner, after discovering that the police special hranch had kept thousands of secret files on public figures. A political storm ensued; a later inquiry vindicated Dunstan's action. But the affair shook his government. Later that year his wife, still in ber thirties, died from cancer. Dunstan was deeply distressed, appeared to suffer a hreakdown and shocked everyone when he resigned in early 1979, appearing before the media in his dressing gown in hospital. It was a sad exit. Des Corcoran, who took over as leader, called an election later that year at which Labor was decimated. The Dunstan decade was over.

After his health recovered, Dunstan left his beloved South Australia and went to work for the tourist commission in the neighbouring state of Victoria. He publicly supported causes on human and

ident of the Movement for Democracy in Fiji. He continued to court on a platform with a man dressed Monsignor Porcamadonna. Italian community leaders were furious. Despite his flamboyance, Dunstan was a reserved, even shy man. In later years, journalists tried to draw him on his personal life, and the subject of sexuality, but he refused to the last interview, arguing

that public figures were entitled to private lives. He returned to Adelaide and opened a restaurant called Don's Table with his partner, Stephen Cheng. Last year, as cancer started to take its toll, he drew an audience of 5,000 to the Gough Whitlam Lecture in Adelaide at which he denounced New Labor's embrace of free market economics. Don Dunstan was an old-style interventionist, and one of his great legacies is the city of Adelaide itself. He left it with a sense of pride in its heritage, innovation in the arts and elegance in the good things of life like

food and drink. ROBERT MILLIKEN Donald Alian Dunstan, politician: born Suva, Fiji 21 September 1926; married 1949 Gretel Ellis (two sons, one daughter; marriage dis-

February 1999.

Sir James Hill



Southampton ties

Hill represented for more than 20 years, is one of Britain's supermarginal constituencies. It has changed hands six times since 1955 and has seen even political stars such as Shirley Williams come and leave defeated. Hill. however, was a consistent winner. He was elected in 1970, and hung on until the second Wilson election in 1974. He came back in 1979, however, and held it until the Blair landslide in 1997. For Hill, though, the previous election in

SOUTHAMPTON TEST, which James

which he lost the seat in 1974. If no candidate is worth more than a few hundred votes, then Hill's background provided just the right maiden speech was devoted to

1992 was a close thing. He got back

- but by just 585 votes. It was almost

the same number as the majority by

number in 1992. Few candidates have had such local ties.

As the son of a Southamptonbased merchant navy officer, he was educated at the Regent's Park School in the Test constituency and later at Southampton University. During the Second World War he sailed from the port in the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries as a signals officer not out of his teens. Later he flew in BOAC flying boats from Southampton Marine Airport. Even the name of the aircraft was local. They were Solents. He was also a prominent member of Southampton City Council, serving as chairman of the housing committee from 1967 to 1970.

In the Commons be never forgot

that he had a marginal seat. His

Southampton employer But he was not merely a parishpump politician. He was a delegate to the European Assembly, where he played a significant part on several key committees. Although an early European enthusiast - he addressed 70 meetings during the 1975 referendum campaign - he became grad-

Southampton's housing blight and

constituency-oriented MP by at-

tacks on his city's vandals, kerb

crawlers and red-light areas. Al-

though he was an instinctive priva-

tiser, there was one exception to

his robust Thatcherism. He was

against any form of privatisation

Agricultural Policy is the root of all the troubles in Europe today."

he maintained his reputation as a He was an easily recognisable figure in the House, hurly and thickspectacled, sitting on the front bench below the gangway. He was popular with his colleagues and secretary of their Industry Committee. He served on the select committees on of the Ordnance Survey, a hig European legislation, transport and procedure and was chairman of the Commons committee on housing improvements. And, as an airman who held pilot's, navigator's and radio officer's licences, he was a natural choice to be secretary of the

Parliamentary Flying Club. In 1997, the year after he was knighted, not even Hill's local roots ually more sceptical, announcing in and long constituency service could the mid-Eighties: "The Common save him. He had been undecided February 1999.

about standing again but in the end he was persuaded to run. He lost by nearly 14,000 votes. At last Test was no longer a marginal. But the result was not due entirely to the Labour landslide. There had been significant boundary changes which had tilted Test decisively towards Labour. TERENCE LANCASTER

Stanley James Allen Hill, politi-

December 1926; member, Southnmpton City Council 1966-70, played in a losing Scotland side. 1976-79, Chairman of Housing 1967-70, 1976-79; MP (Conservative) for Southampton Test 1970-74 1979-97; Kt 1996; married 1958 Ruby Ralph (two aons, three Dumfriesshire 4 April 1921; married

News

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HIMINAM RIVING



Pritchard, far right, with the Fortunes. When their hits dried up, 'We were like wet fish on a slab,' he said

Barry Pritchard

IN 1963, in Birmingham, the guitarist His high notes really made 'Caroline' and vocalist Barry Pritchard formed a group called the Fortunes with Glen Dale and Rod Allen, and they were signed by the eccentric promoter Reg Calvert. Pritchard recalled the first bookings: "Reg held competitions and, if people shouted a number that we couldn't do, he would pay them half-acrown. It was no big deal. There might he 20 people shonting out, so Reg would pick out numbers that we knew."

The Fortunes, as a five-piece with David Carr and Andy Brown, were signed to Decca, and their first single, "I Love Her Still" (1963), was written by Pritchard. Their second, the songwriter Tony Hiller's infuriatingly catchy "Caroline" (1964), became the Theme music for the pirate radio station Radio Caroline, and was a European hit. The Fortunes stood out from other 1960s beat groups because of their distinctive four-part harmonies. "Barry Pritchard had the high voice," says

Tony Hiller, "and he was sensational.

work for me."

The Fortunes recorded two numbers for a live album from the Cavern club in Liverpool (1964), but their subsequent singles failed to sell. The record producer Noel Walker remembers:

The Fortunes' contract came up for renewal and Decca didn't want to renew it. I had recorded them at the Cavern and I told Decca that they sung wonderfully and deserved another chance. I wanted to use them as singers backed by professional musicians and I found a beautiful song. "You've Got Your Troubles". The record turned out exactly how I wanted and I regard Barry's harmonics as fundamental to the Fortunes' sound. to the Fortunes' sound.

"You've Got Your Troubles" (1965) climbed to No 2 in Britain and No 7 in the United States, but the Fortunes hravely admitted that they had not played their own instruments on the record. As with the Monkees and Love Affair, the public became suspicious of their abilities. However, they played well in concert, where their hit song was That Rainy Day Feeling Again", which Swindon, Wiltshire 11 January 1999.

stripped of its middle-of-the-road arrangement. And, as the songwriter Roger Greenaway says, "There are 160 versions of 'You've Got Your Troubles'. but the Fortunes' is very much the best."

Their follow-up single, "Here It Comes Again" (1965), despite its similarities to "You've Got Your Troubles", was an international hit, and "This Golden Ring" (1966) was also successful, Then the hits stopped. Noel Walker recalls: "Barry was the most outgoing of the Fortunes and was a calming influence when things went wrong. He took the ups and downs much better than the rest." The Fortunes released some fine singles - "The Idol" (1967), "Seasons in the Son" (1968) and "Loving Cup" (1968) - but they didn't sell. "We were like wet fish on a slab," said Pritchard, "and it remaining original member. took us some years to get back."

The comeback finally came with a cover version of Pickettywitch's "That Same Old Feeling" for the American market. It was followed by "Here Comes

made the US Top Twenty in 1971. Then came two Top Ten hits in Britain - the reggae-influenced "Freedom Come Freedom Go" (1971) and "Storm in a Teacup" (1972, written by Lynsey De Paul).

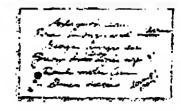
In 1984 the Fortunes were part of the successful double album Hooked On Number Ones, hut by then they were resigned to cabaret dates and oldies shows. Pritchard, who was not a large man, had to endure Rod Allen calling him "a small Fortune" on stage every night.

In 1995, suffering from heart trouble, Pritchard was forced to leave the group. He and his family opened a bar and restaurant on the Costa del Sol.

The Fortunes are about to embark on a nationwide tour with Gerry and the Pacemakers, hut Rod Allen is the only

SPENCER LEIGH

Barry Pritchard, singer and guitarist: born Birmingham 3 April 1944; twice married (four sons); died



LITERARY NOTES

CEDRIC CULLINGFORD

Principle and pathology in the political novel

THE GAME of politics is for marks out Mrs Humphry it is clear that to Mrs Ward many a fascinating one in its own right, with its insistence necessity of knowing the right people. Whether dealing with the "Sir Humphreys" of this world or working through spin doctors, there is no escaping from the fact that politics is in many ways not any thing in the way of an exemplar of virtue hut a good illustration of the pathology

of human nature. The best, or most lasting, of political novels accept this and use politics as a means of gaining insight into the private lives and motivations of individuals. Trollope's Palliser novels, from Can You Forgive Her in 1864 to The Duke's Children in 1880, represent the tradition of looking at the effects of relationships, families, private alliances and networking on personal success. They centre on an upperclass family who are deeply conservative and suspicious of social reform. They depict the earlier approach to politics that meant that aristocratic families would be caught up in loyalty to one

of tradition. apart, are generally driven hy pure motivation. They have chosen to enter politics not necessarily to make money but to do good. What game of social success, and (Cassell, £15.99)

class or conviction but out

Ward's neglected political novels of the early years of this century is their assumption that the same aristocratic families involved in politics see it almost wholly as a game. Both in terms of personal behaviour and motivation, the Edwardian society she depicts is more decadent and self-indulgent. The decay of the political world is reflected in a paral-

lel corruption of marriage.

One of the interesting examples of Mrs Ward's analysis of the intermingling of the private with the public side of politics is Eltham House. Based on an examination of how society in her own day would have viewed the marriage of Lord and Lady Holland who were such a social success in the Regency, despite the fact that Lord Holland's wife was divorced, it is an analysis of the pressures of social hypocrisy and personal ambition. Alec Wing's desire to buy his way into politics is thwarted by personal enmity; morality is merely a device his enemies use.

Eltham House is a book not about political Ideas party or another, not out of hut about the way in which people use them for their own ends. Mrs Ward reveals The politicians that Trola society in which ideas have lope depicts, Phineas Finn no strong hold, but are a matter of routine, family or prejudice. Alec Wing is typical in pursuing both the author of 'Children's Litergame of politics and the ature and its Effects'

the two belong together.

The difference between the "idea" and the use to which it is put emerges clear ly in the very structure of The Coruston Family, On the surface the book is about property, primogeniture and the political world. But there is a clever juxtaposition between the ideas and the plot. the reader looks the more critically because any natur al sympathy is deliberately taken from him

The elder son, Lord Corvs ton, is a socialist who does not believe in primogeniture, yet he is fighting to possess his estates, The Dowager Lady Coryston, reactionary and self-centred, struggles to prevent lum coming into his own as head of the family. This battle, watched by the bewildered relations, flaccid, lazy and inept, is seen to be not about principle but control, not about ideas hut self-indulgence, Mrs Ward's concern is with the nature of such a society and the infinence on it of personal will and gossip.

Real politics, for novelists, is about people. The view that Mrs Humphry Ward takes, unlike Trollope, strikes a contemporary note, and is essentially bleak. The novels remain relevant as well as worth reading.

Cedric Cullingford is the

Robert Barr

IN PRAISING Robert Barr's story- tions from Lt-Col Oreste Pinto's best- the mid-1960s through to the mid-1980s telling skills [5 February], Leonard Miall concentrated on his subject's fame as a television-rather than a radiodrama innovator, and creator in part of such huge popular and critical successes as Z-Cors (watched at one stage by virtually the entire television-owning population), Softly Softly, and the Spycatcher series, writes Jack Adrian.

Yet, although Barr defected to the junior medium almost as soon as it reemerged from wartime cold storage, in 1946, he not only retained an affection for radio, but over the years enjoyed a kind of "dual nationality", writing prolifically for both. Indeed, it may be that he was even more of an innovator than is realised, since although his adapta-

selling Spycatcher books first appeared on the small screen (1959 to 1961), he quickly rewrote the half-hour plays for the wireless (even retaining the actor Bernard Archard as Pinto), so that Spycutcher may well be the very first time a popular television drama series became a radio spin-off.

His successes as a writer for radio may not be burned into the national consciousness to the same extent as, say, Softly Softly (the odd surviving episode always good for Sixties' celebration nights on BBC2, or to be used in tandem with earnest lectures at the NFT). But to those who recall the truly great days of radio drama - forget the 1940s or 1950s: the real Golden Age ran roughly from of a single concertina).

 Barr's is a name to cherish. He wrote at a time when commissioning editors were not hounded by pursed-lipped accountants and a good serial could run for rather more than the miserly four weeks (if you're lucky) accorded it today - his engrossing And the Walls Came Tumbling Down (1966) extended to 13. Yet be could screw up the tension in far less time when necessary: in the six-part The Dark Island (1969; murder and espionage amongst the remote islands of the Outer Hebrides) he created one of the most memorable thriller serials ever broadcast (with surely one of the most evocative openings: the cries of the gulls, the keen

He wrote two sequels, then, in the mid-1970s, a couple of serials featuring his quirky investigator Galbraith (The King of Diamonds and The Midas Touch). In his seventies, when most writers would be yearning to bury the typewriter under a dust-cover, Barr launched a superb series of tough police dramas. Detective ("Stories of crime and detection in London"), starring Ray Brooks as a ducking-anddiving CID sergeant at police-work's sharp end. In the end Detective ran to three long series as well as a gripping

10-part serial. Barr was certainly a hrilliant writer for television; hut his work for the far more imaginative medium should not be forgotten.

Shareholder could also be employee

WHETHER A controlling shareholder of a company could also be an employee of that company for the purposes of the Employment Rights Act 1996 depended on the circumstances of the particular case.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of the Department of Trade and Industry against a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal that the respondent, who was sole shareholder of a company, was entitled as an employee of the company to a redundancy payment under section 166 of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

The respondant became managing director of the company and held the only issued share. It was intended in the future that an American group would hold 80 per cent of the shares in the company, and a draft shareholders' agreement to that effect had been prepared. The respondent signed

The company became insolvent before the shareholders' agreement was executed. A receiver was appointed and the respondent was dismissed with effect from April 1996. His application to the DTI for a redundancy payment from the National Insurance Fund under section 166 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 was rejected on the ground that he was not an employee.

He applied to an industrial vibunal which concluded that he was an employee of the company, relying on its findings that his status as sole shareholder was only temporary, and that any control which he had bad of the group was only the- test which would determine oretical. The tribunal laid stress whether a shareholder or a

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

17 FEBRUARY 1999

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Bottrill Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of

the Rolls, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Mantell) 12 February 1999

on the facts that the respondent had paid National Insurance contributions and tax as if he were an employee, was entitled to sick pay, worked fixed hours and had a contract with the company which was described

as a contract of employment. The Employment Appeal Tribunal upheld the industrial tribunal's determination, and tha DTI appealed, submitting, inter alia, in reliance on the decision of the EAT in Buchan and Ivey v Secretory of State for Employment [1997] IRLR 80, that whatever his position for other purposes, an individcontrolling shareholding in a regarded as an employee for the purposes of the 1996 Act. Jennifer Eady (the Treasury Solicitor for the DTI; Martyn Barklem (Shulmans, Leeds) for

Lord Woolf MR said that whilst there were attractions in having a simple and clear

the respondent.

director was an employee for the purposes of the Employment Rights Act 1996, the Act itself did not provide such a test and it was far from obvions what Parliament would have intended the test to be.

There was no justification for departing from the wellestablished position in the law of employment generally, which was that whether or not an employer or employee relationship exasted could only be decided by having regard to all the relevant facts. If an individual had a controlling shareholding that was certainly a fact which was likely to be significant, hut was not to be taken as determinative.

In such a case, a tribunal might wish to consider whether there was or had been a genuine contract between the company and the shareholder. and, if the contract was not a sham, whether the contract actually gave rise to an employer/employee relationship: whether there were other directors apart from the shareholder employee, and whether the company's constitution gave the shareholder rights such that he was in reality answerable only to himself and incapable of being dismissed: ual who held the sole or and whether, if he was a director, he was able under the limited company was not to be Articles of Association to vote on matters in which he was personally interested, such as the termination of his contract

of employment. In the present case the industrial tribunal had been entitled to conclude that there was a genuine contractual relationship between the respondent and his company.

KATE O'HANLON Barrister

GAZETTE

Oxford, 68; Mr Gene Pitney,

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales under-takes engagements in Brighton, East Sussex. Prince Edward, ustee, The Duke of Edinhurgh's Award, attends the Award's Friends' Reception at Buckingham Palace, followed by the Award's annual Charter Member Dinner, at St James's Palace. The Princess Royal visits Bakewell, Derbyshire, to view various aspects of the Bakewell Project - a scheme to secure the future of Bakewell through economic, social and business support and training visits Royal Crown Derby, Derby, as Patron, National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, attends Derby Bureaux attends Deruy Bureau's 60th Anniversary Cel-ebration and opens their new premises at Sitwell Street. Derby; opens the new factory extension at Thorntons plc. Alfreton, Derbyshire; and visits Green Gshles Cheshire Home, Alfreton, Derby

CHANGING OF THE GUARD Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse

Guards, 11am.

a line (VAT extra).

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at \$6.50

BIRTHDAYS Mr Yasser Arafat, Chairman,

Palestine National Authority,

70; Mr Alan Bates, actor, 65; Dr Julia Browne Kuschbach, former Editor, Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, 104; Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP, 65; Dr Gordon Cook, Honorary Senior Lecturer in Medicina (Infectious Diseases), University College London, 67; Miss Angela Eagle MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Environment, 38; Miss Maria Eagle MP, 38; The Earl of Eigin and Kincardine, 37th Chief of the Name of Bruce, and Lord-Lieutenant of Fife, 75; Lord Foot, solicitor and conservationist, 90; Mr Bernie Grant MP, 55; Lord Hoyle. a Lord in Waiting (Government Whip), 69; Mr Barry Humphries, entertainar, 65; Sir Gordon Jones, former chairman, Yorkshire Water, 72; Mr Richard Kennedy, Head Master, Highgate School, 50; Mr Andrew Leigh, General Manager, the Old Vic. 58; Miss Julia McKenzie, actress and singer, 58; General Sir John

Mogg, former Deputy

pal, St Anne's College,

Supreme Allied Commander,

Claire Palley, former Princi-

Europe, 86; Professor Dr

country and western singer and composer, 58; Baroness Rendell of Babergh (Ruth Rendell), crime novelist, 69; Miss Patricia Routledge, actress, 70; Lord Slynn of Hadley, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 69; Mr Graham Stringer MP, 49; Commandant Mary Talbot, former Director, WRNS, 77; Sir Anthony Wilson, former head of the Government Accountancy Service, 71.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Sir Edward German (Edward German Jones), composer, 1862; Ronald Arbuthnott Knox, theologian and essayist, 1888. Deaths: Tameriane the Great, Mongol leader, 1405; Molière (Jean-Baptiste Poquelin), playwright, 1673; Geronimo (Goyathlay - "One Who Yawns"), Apache chief, 1909; Graham Vivian Sutherland, painter, 1980; Lee Strasberg, actor and founder of the Actors' Studio, 1982. On this day: the inner tomb of Tutankhamun was opened at Luxor by the team led by Lord Carnarvon, 1923; the British National Health Service White Paper was issued, 1944; a majority in the House of Commons decided that Britain should join the Common Market, 1972. Today is Ash Wednesday and the Feast Day of St Evermod, St Finan of Lindisfarne, St. Fintan of Cloneenagh, St Loman, the Seven Servite Founders and Saints Theodulus and Julian.

LECTURES National Gallery: Rebecca

Lyons, "Ingres (iii): Ingres's Contemporaries", 1pm. Victoria and Albert **Museum: Gracia Lafue**nte, "Contemporary Issues in Photography", 2pm. British Museum: Aileen Dawson, "18th-century Porcelain", 11.30am; Robert Gwynne, "Sutton Hoo", 12.30pm. Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Jones, "Air Power in a New Era", 6pm.

DINNERS

HMS Victory Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Navai Home Command, and Lady Brigstocke were the hosts at a dinner held yesterday

evening in HMS Victory. Portsmouth, in aid of the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust.

British Association for the

the Carlton Club, London

Maude MP, Shadow Chancel-

guest of honour and speaker.

SW1. The Hon Francis

Hill House

Club of Rome a contract of employment. Professor Brian Locke was the host at a dinner held yesterday by the British Association for the Club of Rome at the Athenaeum, London SW1. Dr Hans DuMoulins was the speaker. **Coningsby Club** A Coningsby Club dinner was held yesterday evening at

lor of the Exchequer, was the

SCHOOLS

Former pupils and staff of Hill House are invited to a reception on 23 April to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school's foundation and the 90th birthday of Colonel Townend. Please write to the school, Hill House International Junior School, 17 Hans Place, London SW1X 0EP, with your current address and dates at Hill House for full details and an invitation.

HOPE FOR civilisation recedes with every issue of The Grocer. It boasts "exclusive" coverage of the IFF show, where Alf Carr, director-general of the British Frozen Food Federation enthuses:

There is an increase in sophistication of the bake-off process with products going into stores and being cooked

WORDS **CHRISTOPHER** HAWTREE bake-off, adj.

and sold there. People always think the main base for frozen lines is the retail cabinet but now there is every sort of product you can think of for bake-off.

Bake-off (not in the OED) is a bogus process, akin to those pubs which proclaim home-made food hat merely heat it up. Carr's intestines are girding themselves: McCain's bake-off "will set an industry standard over the next few years, they give a homedelivery or pizza-pariour standard".

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Gerry Adams, was your decision to join the peace process strategic or moral?)

erry Adams, 50, has been president of Sinn Fein since 1983. In 1971 be was interned for suspected ter rorist activity. He is now MP tiator for Sinn Fein during the forging of the Good Friday agreement.

Who has been the greatest influence on

Cecīle Stewart, Chippenham There have been so many people... my parents, my grandmother, Colette, Christ, Mairead Farrell, Bobby Sands and many more. It would be wrong to single out a

Do you see an end to the punishment beatings?

Helena Jack, Edinburgh Yes. They should stop immediately. We also need a new policing service and criminal justice system, as well as the involvement of the community

Until the Police Commission has reported and until we have a proper policing service, we still need to tackle in a non-violent, legal but effective way the problem of antisocial and criminal behaviour. Some elements have sought selfishly to exploit the existing gap in the justice system. One response to this in the last two years has been the formation of a number of community/neighbourhood watch groups. They have significantly improved the quality of life of people living in areas of Belfast like Twinbrook and Poleglass and the Whiterock.

Nor is the problem resolved by vigilantism or by battering young people, some of whom are unfairly categorised as "hoods". The notion of restorative justice is required, in which the community plays a proactive role in reforming and rehabilitating criminals. The community must agree the principles underlying any restorative justice programme.

What is your opinion of Michael Collins:

Steve Holloway, Nottingham

I don't see people in that context. Everyone has to be judged in their own time, and while I believe that Collins should not have accepted the treaty in the way he did, there were many, many other leaders involved. His death during the Irish civil war was tragic proof of the efficacy of the tactic of divide and conquer which has under-written Britain's involvement in Ireland.

Have you ever thought of packing it in, ing a fortune?

Student, University of Ulster
I have never thought of going to live in
America, though I would like to visit there and many other places in a more leisurely and more casual - anonymous -way. Nor have I thought of earning a fortune. But I have thought of packing it in...

l live in Warrington and I'm of Northern Irish Catholic descent. I was in Warrington with my young son on the morning of the bomb attack. My relatives in Northern Ireland and myself were deeply affected by the event. Do you think that it was a catalyst in the rapid progress of the peace agreement in the aftermath?

Thomas Conlon, Warrington, Cheshire The killing of Jonathan Ball and Tim Parry in Warrington, though it was clearly a mistake, was wrong. I know I was deeply moved by the death of the two boys. It is difficult to know exactly how much of a catalyst this particular incident was, because unfortunately there have been many such tragic incidents involving young people killed by either the IRA, the lovalists or the British Crown forces.

The families of the two boys killed at Warrington, like many of the other families of victims, behave with great dignity and courage. I like to think that all of these



are committed to building a lasting peace settlement. Unfortunately, and regret-tably, the horror of these incidents appears to be forgotten or ignored by some elements. For example - despite the cruelty of last summer, when three little Catholic boys were burned to death in Ballymoney at the height of the Orange marching season-the siege of Garvagby Road has continued unabated. And the awfulness of the Omagh bomb seems now to have been for-

gotten by some elements. What we all need to do, and this includes to ensure that the peace process works, that not a single other person is killed, and that a lasting peace is established.

Which historical figure do you admire

John Lister, Cornwall

On a global scale, I am a huge admirer of Velson Mandela. And in my own life, I like to think that history is made by little people whn rarely get mentioned in the history books, but who day in and day out make their own history. In this phase of Irish history, I meet such people every day and they are generally good-humoured, dig-nified and unassuming as they go about the task of creating a new society. I have huge admiration for these people. Interestingly enough, I find at a community level that most of the most radical and

Was your decision to jnin the peace process strategic or moral? Anne Sheehan

There is a moral imperative to find an alternative to conflict. Irish republicans have always recognised this and Smn Fein's involvement in the search for a peace strategy sprang from that necessity.

Sinn Fein wants to demolish the physical, psychological and political barriers which divide the people of this island. killings are an incentive for those of us who These owe much to the legacy of our past

and continued British jurisdiction in Ireland, as well as to partition.

The peace process is about tearing down these barriers. It is about creating a new dispensation on this island in the new millennium which raises our common humanity above the prejudices and divi-

Sinn Fein's political objective is a united Ireland free of British interference. Everything we do is intended to advance of loyalist and British forces. In my that entirely legitimate and realisable goal. We see a 32-county republic as the best social, economic and other inequalities which affect the people of this island.

Have you lost friends and relatives in the troubles?

Margaret Collins, Pinner, London Yes. There have been over 20 members of Sinn Fein killed, and another similar number of family members, many of them personally known to me. My brotherin-law, Patrick Mulvenna, was shut dead by the British Army in 1973. My cousin

> NEXT WEEK BOBBY CHARLTON, FOLLOWED BY CLARE SHORT



SEND ANY questions for footballing legend Bobby Charlton and Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, to: You Ask the Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail yourquestions@independent.co.uk), by 12 noon on Friday 19 February

Kieran Murphy was mutilated and killed by the Shankill butchers, and in January of last year my nephew-in-law Terry Enright, a young man with two infant children, was killed by loyalists in the killing spree around Christmas. My brother was very seriously injured when shot by the British Army and I also was wounded when a loyalist death squad shot me. Numerous friends have been victims

And which do you oppose? Jane Clark, London

constituency of West Belfast hundreds of

people have been killed.

inated against in every facet of our society – an experience common throughout the world. It is wrong. It is an intolerable situation and one which must be challenged at every opportunity and changed. Equality is a basic human right and it must be applied and defended.

The issue of what is described as a woman's "right to choose" is an important matter with serious implications for Ireland. Every year in Ireland at least 5,000 Irish women travel to Britain for abortions. While not supportive of abortion on demand, our party policy on this issue recognises a range of social and medical circumstances which can give rise to women having abortions, such as where a woman's mental and physical wellbeing of life is at risk, or in grave danger.

What books and political events have had the greatest influence on you?

Patrick Fox, Basingstoke, Hants I suppose the writings of Alice Walker had a big influence on me in terms of feminism, and Labour in Irish History by James Connolly, which is a socialist republican analysis of our history.

On the international stage, the achievement of democracy in South Africa, the re- Yes. Tall, bearded and bespectacled.

unification of Germany, and the collapse of the USSR, are surely indications that no situation is intractable and that everything is possible.

Locally, in my teens in 1964 when the RUC, at the behest of Ian Paisley, smashed into a Sinn Fein election office on the Falls Road and seized the Irish national flag which was displayed there. This event kick-started my sense of political consciousness. Five years later, the pogroms in Belfast which were the reaction to the civil rights struggle here. The generation were the hunger strikes of 1980 and 1981 in which 10 prisoners died.

Equality. In Ireland women are discrim- Is the Good Friday agreement more at risk now than it has ever been?

> The onus for delivering and implementing the agreement during this period will be very much on the British Government. The success of the agreement will depend upon Britain establishing the agreed structures so that power can be transferred from London and Dublin within the time-frame outlined, by 10 March. If they fail to do this, which I think most unlikely, then the Unionist veto will have prevailed and the

> wreckers and rejectionists will have won. We must not allow this to happen. The Good Friday agreement is what we have. It represents what is possible at this time; not the preferred option of any of the participants - certainly not Sinn Fein's.

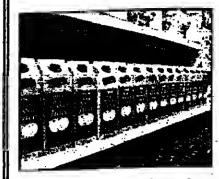
Who is your favourite comedian? Adrian O'Grady, Ulster

I enjoy John Cleese very much. Patrick Kielty can be firmly the odd time. The Hole in the Wall Gang aren't bad. On reflection I probably prefer comedies to comedians.

Can ynn describe yourself in two Judith Mahoney, Strabane

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

30. SUPERMARKETS BY BRUCE MILLAR



AM at the supermarket. The word "yoghurt" is scrawled on the torn envelope in my hand, so I steer the trolley towards the dairy aisle, a 30-ft expanse of milk-based products. Mission accomplished.

Er, no. There's peach-flavoured yoghurt, strawberry-flavoured yoghurt yoghurt with peach or strawberry chunks, yoghurt with forest berries (I've never seen berries in a forest), vanilla-flavoured yoghurt, chocolateflavoured yoghurt, Greek-style with honey, creamy yoghurt with hlobs of fruit purée in a separate compartment

There's low-fat yoghurt and no-fat yoghurt, or rather - since spellings have to vary as much as the contents lo-fat or lite. And just in case you think you've gut a handle on the choices involved, there's crème fraiche and fromage blanc.

Out of my depth in dairy, I decide to go for the ordinary, unflavoured, unfiltered, unmediated, full-fat, plain variety. And I can't find it.

Perhaps I should retrace my steps and try to remember why I wanted yoghurt in the first place? Was it for pudding or salad?

If, by some failure of weekend programming, my family and I were to find ourselves at the supermarket together, my interior monologue on the merits and uses of various yoghurts would turn into a public debate that would inevitably end in one of those domestic compromises that leave each party feeling sour – and we end up leaving the shop with half a dozen different types and flavours of yoghurt

in our trolley. Without the interested parties present to debate their particular tastes, my nerve wavered. But I did not sink so low as to phone home on the mobile, as I see my fellow shoppers doing from time to time, and describe

the display in front of me. The whole point of the supermarket run is to shop quickly and efficiently and maybe even inexpensively under

The whole point of choice, on the other band, is that it requires decision-

making - a demanding and time-So the abundance of choice in our supermarkets – every year higger,

better, more - has transformed the business of stocking up on household staples into a day's work, involving detailed analysis of pros and cons and whys and wherefores.

The next item on my envelope is washing powder. The aisle is another expanse of different brands in different sizes and different packages and boxes. One declares itself to be "biological". What can it mean? Is it intended to sound healthy and natural?

The next hox is equally proud of being "non-biological". I can have a soft pack. A cardboard box. A plastic container. A dispensing ball. A measuring cup. I could have a refill (what would I be refilling?). There are different flavours. I could, if I chose, walk around in lemon-scented jockey shorts, or sleep in pine-scented sheets. And how do I choose?

At this point I do what any rational person would, dazzled by infinite variety. I start loading the trolley at random. Then, dimly aware that I've departed from my crumpled list, I dump a couple of yoghurts (lo-fat banana flavour with honeycomb; Greek full fat with muesli) on the dog-food shelf. More choice for dogs.

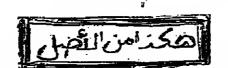


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Double-layer, neon-pink dress, £50, by Warehouse; branches at 19-21 Argyll Street, London W1; 30 King Street, Manchester; 14 Lands Lane, Leeds



aqua top, £27.99, by Morgan (0171-383 2888); lemon asymmetric skirt, to order, by Etro (0171-495 5767)



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I've had it up to here with grey

here are certain re- you understand, more like neon. ceived wisdoms: stripes on the horizontal should only ever be worn by the enviably thin; American Tan tights and puffball skirts are a crime of fashion of unprecedented proportions, and pink is likely to do nothing whatsoever for the average grey/white British complexion - in fact, it may be positively harmful.

You know something's afoot, however, when Helmut Lang - let's just call him Mr Minimal Monochrome - turns to colour. You know some thing's, well, plain insane when that colour is pink - oot palest rose,

Things gather momentum when Tom Ford – a man who, until recently, has taken pride in the fact that he wears black and only black, morning, noon and night and whatever the weather - features equally vibrant pinks, alongside turquoise and blue, on the normally resolute-ly sombre Gucci catwalk. Put it this way: until now, for Ford, white has been a radical option. In terms of colour, this time round, his is the

Almodovar of collections: hot and Mediterranean from start to finish. But then, as Ford himself puts it, when asked to explain this rather radical about-turn: "I always try to think of myself as the customer. So,

what does she want? She certainly doesn't want grey. Her closet's full of it. She's read about it 20 million times. She's sick of it. She's lived through grey. She's gone through minimalism and conceptual fashion. So, what does she want now? She

wants... pink dresses." Of course! If the spring/summer collections are anything to go by - and the au-turon/winter shows, kicking off this week in New York, seem only to add grist to the mill - the world, in fashion terms at least, is set to become a far more colourful place. Lang and Ford aren't the only designers to have come over all hright and breezy: everyone from Calvin Klein and Donna Karan to Christian Dior

and Clements Ribeiro has introduced a hefty dose of colour into their collections. Lang's and Ford's offerings are the most significant. however Between them, they are al-most singlehandedly responsible for informing the Great British High Street: where forthcoming trends are concerned, these are the world's

two most influential designers. So, it seems that, this time round, the customer really might want pink dresses. And hlue ones. Even yellow ones, although this potentially most virulent of hues, it almost goes without saying, should be han-dled with even more care than the first. We can only be thankful that lime green isn't back on the fashion

agenda. Remember lime green? Of course, each and every summer, fashion editors push colour as if their very existence depended on it-it makes great pictures, after all then turn up at the next round of shows wearing black head to toe. This season, however, there's barely any black in the stores to be seen. Grey, meanwhile, is just so last sea-

son (and the season before that, and the one before that) it doesn't bear thinking about. For spring/summer. colour - from palest aqua to brightest turquoise; from dusty lilac to purpled pink; from delicate primrose to acid yellow and from lapis lazuli to ice blue - takes centre stage.

For those still committed to more

neutral shades, bright isn't necessarily best: a very pale skin should avoid the strongest shades. Neither should they worry about mixing their colours: the truly brave (truly fashionable) among us should think nothing of combining orange with purple, say, or yellow with blue. Have courage in your convictions and don't even care.

And finally, there's always white to resort to which, more than any rainbow shade, is the new hlack Fashion purists might do well to stick with this. They can always accessorise with colour rather than go the whole hog. There's many a tomato red lipstick or neon pink handbag out there to choose from after all.

NEXT WEEK

Is New York the new London? Can the commercial fashion capital ever compete with London as a centre for innovation and ideas? Full New York report, including Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Marc Jacobs, TSE Cashmere and more

Photographer: Tom Corbett Stylist: Holly Wood Make-up and hair: Beverley **Brooke using Shu Uemura** Model: Claire Cain at Select



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Art, travel and other drugs

The extraordinary life and work of Henri Michaux remain profoundly influential abroad. Why not here? By Kevin Jackson

he year 1928 was a busy one for the poet Henri Michaux. He wrote to his friend Jean Paulhan about various books and shorter writings he had in hand, as well as his involvement with music. drama, theatre, painting and sculpture, and his fascination with the Tibetan sage and sorcerer Milarepa. Meanwhile, though his health was far from robust. Michaux was keeping himself out of mischief by spending several months canoeing along a tributary of the Amazon for a thousand or so miles, and climbing mountains and volcanoes in the Andes.

"I brutalised myself," he wrote. "I forced myself to walk, but my body stood up poorly to these adventures.

When not pushing his frail constitution to its limits exploring the outer world, he applied himself just as recklessly to the murkier recesses of his inner world, dosing himself with ether and opium. He was, in short, no Philip Larkin.

In fact, it's hard to think of any Anglophone writer or artist with whom Michaux might reasonably be compared, though some have made the attempt. Richard Ellmann, who translated a selection of his writings in the early Fifties, found affinities between Michaux and Jonathan Swift, since both were inventors of imaginary lands and were moved to savage indignation by human cruelty and idiocy. (Less plausibly, Ellmann thought he saw a certain likeness of Michaux in the Amer-

ican writer and cartoonist James Thurbec) You might also say that Michaux is a little like Aldous Huxley, since both were mystics who wrote at length about their Richard Burton, since he was a pioneering and stoical traveller with a keen interest in matters anthropological; and a little like pressed himself as urgently in paint as he

did in writing. And then, having drawn such analogies, you finally throw in the towel, since there remains so much in Michaux's vast ocurre of books and paintings which has any true counterpart in our culture; a very good reason, then, for our starting to pay more atteotion to him. A hundred years after his hirth in Belgium, Henri Eugeoe Marie Ghislain Michaux (1899-1984) is regarded by the French-speaking world as an inescapable, magisterial presence in both visual art and literature, and by the Euglish speaking world as... well, it is tricky to complete that phrase.

Despite the best efforts of, inter alia, Professor Elimann, the Tate Gallery (which showed a decent number of Michaux's paintings alongside Picasso and Giacometti in its "Paris Post War" exhibition a few years ago) and Bloodaxe Books (which recently published a translation of Michaux's late book Déplacements, Dégagements as Space, Displaced, Michaux remains pretty much unknown in Britain, even to the least parochial souls. A few weeks ago, I launched into an animated discussion about Michaux with a particularly cultivated Europhile publisher, only to find myself at hopeless cross-purposes - until it dawned on me that he assumed I must be talking about the

novelist and politician André Malraux. This week, it falls to London's Whitechapel Gallery to make another attempt at importing this unclassifiable maitre. On Friday, the Whitechapel will be opening the first one-man show of Michaux's work to be held in the United Kingdom. This will include some 130 works, displayed in three sections. The first

In another life he might have been a cardinal, a general or a hanging judge

two are "Calligraphy" - work done mainly in Indian ink, representing the uncertain borderland between words as lexical units and words as visual patterns - and "Watercolours," including both abstract and figurative paintings, especially of faces. "It's experiences with mescalin; a little like Sir not in the mirror that one should contemplate oneself," runs one of his maxims. "Men, look at yourselves on paper."

The third section is entitled "Mescalin", William Blake, since Michaux, too, ex- and contains 63 of his agitated, weirdly affecting graphic records of the hours he spent on that drug as well as on LSD-25 and other hallucinogens, with his doors of perception well ajar. These unearthly visions, in conjunction with the four books he wrote about his drug experiences, Misérable Miracle (1956), L'Infini Turbulent (1957), Connaissance par les Gouffres (1961), and Les Grandes Epreuves de l'Esprit (1966) (only the first is available in English), earned him notoriety as well as admiration.

His response was partly diffident, partly defiant. On the one hand, he was chastened by the gap between vision and expression: "The present drawings are, need I say? Reconstructions. A hand 200 times more agile than the human hand would not be up to the task of following the speeding course of the inexhaustible spectacle."

On the other, he was scornful of what might be called the tabloid response to his work "To the amateurs of one-way perspectives who might be tempted to judge all my writings as the work of a junkle, let me say - sorry, but I am more the waterdrinking type.

Oddly this self-portrait was quite accurate. As far as we can make out from reminiscences and confessions, Michaux was rather a grim, ascetic character, and was one of the very few writers (another would be Ernst Jimger) of whom it could accurately be said, in the antiseptic cliché, that he "experimented with drugs", as opposed to getting gleefully or wretchedly zonked on them. He hated being photographed, but the handful of shots which exist - generally by the likes of Brassai, and very fine - show the stern reserve and forcefulness of a man who might in another life have been a cardinal, a general or a hanging judge.

Michaux strikes us, that is to say, as an intensely serious man, driven as much by a strange sense of self-invented duty as by a deep unhappiness that stemmed from his childhood, which was solitary, stubborn, and blighted by a condition we would now call anorexia. His wanderings in Europe, North Africa, South America, India, China and Japan (some of them the inspiration for hismost celebrated travel book, Un barbare en Asiel A Barbarian in Asia (1933), appear less like youthful adventurousness than the type of psthological restlessness anatomised by Bruce Chatwin in The Songlines and elsewhere. And there's evidence to suggest that Michaux turned to writing and painting as others might turn to a therapist, which may be why his most productive periods were during private agonies. Asked, in 1942, to explain his reasons for writing, he said that his principal motive was "to free myself from an intolerable tension."

Michaux began painting as early as the Twenties, but did not really become known as a painter until, in 1938, Un poète se change en peintre, announced the poster for his show at the Galerie Pierre. He began to be taken seriously only in 1948, after an outburst of creativity immediately following the death of his wife Marie-Louise that February. (She had been in hospital for two months after suffering from terrible burns when her nylon peignoir caught fire.)
In his grief, Michaux poured out hun-

dreds upon hundreds of watercolours in the strange things." It's a catchy slogan, and space of little more than a month. By April, not a bad thought to bring to Michaux's according to his being and his needs will, April (0171-522 7878). Admission free



'Untitled' (1953) by Henri Michaux, Indian ink on paper

some of these were on show at the Galerie René Drouin. The critics were enraptured, and Michaux's reputation as both writer and artist was assured.

André Gide, a fervent supporter of Michaux's work, summed up its distinctive quality by saying that "He excels in making us feel intuitively both the strangeness of natural things and the naturalness of

work. But there are even better thoughts to take away from his work. Knowing himself how wonderful it was to be liberated by the example of a writer such as Lautreamont or artists such as Paul Klee and Max Ernst, he hoped to serve as a liberator for artists still unborn, as he wrote

in the "Postface" to Mouvements (1951): "Whoever, having perused my signs, is unless I am very much mistaken, discover a source of exhilaration, a release such as he has never known, a disencrustation, a new life open to him, a writing unhoped for affording relief, in which he will be able at last to express himself far from words, words, the words of others."

'Henri Michaus: Works on Paper' is at the Whitechapel Gallery, Tue-Sun, 19 Feb-25

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No. 00494 of 1999 IN THE HIGH COURT

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Wragge & Co. 55 Colmore Row. Birmingham B3 2AS Ref: 12/8405/NJM/STJ

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in accordance with Rule 4 106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that L & O Goodman, 15A a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messis. Leonard Cuths, One-Great Cumberland Place, London Will 81E, was appointed liquidator of the above Companies by the members and cretitors on 10th February 1999. All drebs and claims should be sent to me at the above address.

All creditors who have not already done 90 Jae anyted in prove their claims in writing to me No hatther public advertisement of invisition to prove debts will be given. prove debts will be given
Dated this 10th February 1999
A O GOODMAN, FCA, Liquidate

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Power and imagination

THE RUSSIAN-BORN pianist Arcadi Volodos is a man of few words, as more than one interview has made plain. Perhaps this laconic charmer failed to communicate clearly with the organisers of the South Bank piano series about his intended changes of programme on Sunday, for after a misleading announcement we were left -

Voiodos is, however, a pianist of many notes and prodigious feats of virtuosity, which hy the time of his fourth encore began to seem too much of a good thing, as he hoovered up and down the keyboard gobhing up more complications than the hrain could untangle.

Yet there is more to him than a note-spinning machine. He has, for a start, a wonderful in the best possible sense - as

CLASSICAL ARCADI VOLODOS

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL SOUTH BANK CENTRE LONDON sound - sumptuously cush-

ioned, and melting through an infinite range of dynamic levels. Then there are no hard edges or awkward corners in the way he phrases, except where incisive attacks are called for. He has authority. A short, strange piece by

Scriabin introduced at the very beginning a world of extravagant fantasy, before Volodos slipped straight into the effulgent, jangling Tenth Sonata -kept relatively muted here, even at its delirious climax, and

possible to imagine. Volodos looks like a houncer

- but his massive weight is held in reserve as he toys with technical challenges with an imbegan to reveal his full prowess in a group of preludes and Etudes-tableaux by Rachmaninov, first uncovering his magnificent tone at its fullest in the C sharp minor Etude from the first set, revelling in

the effortless velocity of his octaves and double notes in the D major Etude from the second. Yet who would have thought gems are brilliant, but many

are simple, even homely, and

liberated from the page as it is Volodos handled every one as if it were priceless. His quality of impulsive ardour and delicious fluency, the joy commu- not someone you'd mess with nicated in his dexterity. reminded me of the way Martha Argerich treats Schuperturbable confidence. He mann - as a composer whose endless invention grew not only from deep warmth, but also from fathomiess darkness.

Finally, what prompted all those encores was a mindnumbing athletic display in the Horowitz version of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No 15. There's no point in playing it unless like this - with a supercharged pugilism that seemed he had such feeling for Schu- to cost this keyboard heavymann's neglected collection of weight little effort. He vouch-Bunte Blutter? Some of these safed hardly the ghost of a smile the whole evening.

Young guns go for it

VISUAL ARTS ACCELERATOR ARNOLFINI GALLERY

BRISTOL

IT HAPPENS time and time again A curator comes up with a great zeitgeist theme, the show is cast, a hip designer is cootracted to do the catalogue and a substantial buzz is generated. Then the artists go and muck it all up by insisting on being artists and doing what they like. In this case, however, any discrepancy between the curators' intentions and the artists' response has had an enriching effect. There may the theme - fashion and "popthe work is impressive. There's

even some good painting. Co-curated by Southampton City Art Gallery (where it first year). Arnolfini and Oldham Art Gallery, Accelerator is an international group show hy 12relatively young artists. The buzz starts in the foyer of the gallery, where Jeremy Deller records or smoking fags - offers the artist who once made a T- much textual analysis or aes-



A detail from Kilimnik's 'artless' DiCaprio portrait

not be much interrogation of Drug Hell", which was then worn by the singer in a notable ular" culture - but the range of act of appropriation - has fashioned an audio-tape loop of a ticket tout's ever more desperate imprecations. Once inside, your ears are assailed by appeared at the end of last the rave music soundtrack of Hilary Lloyd's video installation where, on two screens, a DJ can be seen in the contrasting settings of a club and his bedroom.

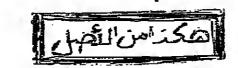
shirt out of a tabloid headline thetic pleasure. Lloyd's other reading "Robbie Williams: My piece, a slide show of a club queen's progress through the night, also displays a studied blankness that fails to move the exhibition beyond a self-defeating, "Yeah, right" response.

The painters, by contrast, display a superficially uncritical delight in the visual language of advertising and of Pop artists from the Sixties. Michael Bevilacqua paints col-

turns a star-stalker's eye on the teen-cult TV princess, Tori Spelling. Sylvie Fleury uses a palette derived from cosmetics brochures to paint brilliant abstracts in the form of customised car decorations, and Karen Kilimnik draws Leonardo DiCaprio in a purposely artless style that suggests the star-struck pencil work of pathological fans. Among the three-dimensional work on show, the Japanese artist Ako Sasao has made rag dolls in the images of Noel, Patsy, Naomi, and Keith from Prodigy that nails down the gaucheness of teen iconography.

Though the original theme of fashion seems to have receded since the curators' founding plan, sculptor Freddie Contreras has created a catwalk where, in response to pressure pads on a long length of line, a blitz of flash-bulbs go off in your face. Accelerator might not make you think, but promotion that recalls the work it keeps you on your feet. PHIL JOHNSON

lages of band logos and teen Arnolfini, Bristol (0117-929 9191) then Oldham Art Gallery



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To a day

Kinky sexual experiments were being shown on stage long before Shopping and Fucking. Marivaux played dangerous gender games in his 1744 play La Dispute. It's a natural for director Neil Bartlett. By Paul Taylor

Legends of the Fall

id Adam have a navel? Just for decoration, of course, and for solidarity with his offspring. Or was it one of the meagre consolations of post-Edenic life that at least he didn't have any problems with smelly, wedged-in fluff? How, though, could you be the human race's Ur-navelgazer without a navel to gaze into? Tricky.

We have a powerful urge to try to imagine a primal, prelapsarian state, but as the above parody shows, tha fun and difficulties of this activity arise from the fact that we only have postlapsarian methods and metaphors for engaging in it. Even imagination is a "fallen" phenomenon. In Puradise Illustrated, his acutely witty descantings on themes from Paradise Lost, DJ Enright pinned it down perfectly with this vignette: "It's unimaginable!" sighed Adam/'You're not obliged to imagine it, / snapped the Landlord Yet "

People have gone to extraordinary lengths in the forlorn hope of artificially reproducing "original" conditions. There's the instance of the Pharaoh, cited by Herodotus, who cansed some children to be reared in total silence in the barmy belief that when they eventually spoke, it would bein the primal language of humanity. And tragically, in our century, there's the case of Genie, the Los Angeles teenage girl who spent her entire life locked up. Her stillpreverbal plight had linguisticians salivating: through her, they thought, Chomsky's theories about language and the mind could be proved or disproved. Not so. and the poor girl became a sbuttlecock in a contest between rival academics.

No non-fictional experiment has, however, displayed quite the kinkiness and exquisite cruelty of that dramatised by Pierre Marivaux in his 1744 play The Dispute. This compelling rarity is about to be revived by Neil Bartlett, artistic director of the Lyric, Hammersmith, using his own translation and in a welcome co-production between the Lyric and the RSC. The set-up in this frightening comedy is as follows: 18 years before the action commences, a recherché dispute had arisen at the Prince's court over which of the sexes in the early days of mankind committed the first infidelity. To "settle" the matter, the Prince promptly ordered four babies to be reared in solitary confinement. Compared with them, marooned Miranda in Shakespeare's cognate Tempest had a crammed social diary. And the young heir to the throne who is continually drugged and swept backwards and forwards from ragged isolation to glittering court in the political unrest of Calderon's masterpiece Life Is A Dream enjoyed, by comparison, a life crowded with incident and friendship.

The drama of what happens when Marivaux's young people are eventually released into each other's company is enclosed within a singularly nasty frame. Watching the proceedings unnoticed are the prince's son and Hermiane, the woman he wishes to seduce. The outcome of the inset drama will evidently affect their



A frightening comedy in a nasty frame: Neil Bartlett directs Mariyaux's "The Dispute"

Geraint Lewis

though, are they observing? A re-enactment of Eden and the Fall, or - notwithstanding the calendar age of these couples - a kind of child pornography?

Neil Bartlett teems with fascinating ideas about the piece, which he likens, in its Rococo exquisiteness, to a Meissen figurine - its style in telling tension with tha clinical brutality it confronts and analyses. It felt a bit incongruous to be talking to in his bijou cottage digs in Stratford-upon-Avon, rather as though one had suddenly spotted Genet in a National Trust gift shop. He appears, however, to be relishing his temporary transposition and certainly coproductions such as this are just the kind of blood transfusion the RSC needs.

A Slovakian company hrought an extraordinarily sexy version of *The Dispute* to the 1991 Edinburgh Festival; but the revival now used as a tonchstone is Patrice Chereau's 1970s production which grimly shifted proceedings to a post-Sadeian, post-Frendian environment where the Nazi experiments in the death camps never seemed far away and where one of relationship for good or ill. What exactly, the young guinea pigs was reduced, to sui-

cide. Bartlett's staging sounds much subtler. Setting the play at an aristocratic country house weekend in the 1930s will enable him to get the best of both worlds.

In his view, what befalls the 18-year-old in the short course of the play is "an evolution that is like time-lapse photography. They start off being five, but actually behave as if they are three, and finish older than us". For Bartlett, the timescale of the the future. "It seems to start in the Rococo 18th century and whether it wants to or not, it winds up in a Sadeian wasteland". He is struck by how acutely the play anticipates later "findings". The comically naive routines with a looking glass "are almost a canonical description of Freud's mirrorphase and its perils". Having a foot, so to speak in two temporal camps, the production will strive to heighten the play's prophetic cultural amphibiousness

I suggested to Bartlett that theatre is a medium particularly suited to dramatising these doomed attempts to recreate origins. the bare stage a symbol of the tabula rasa, the slate wiped clean, a metaphor right under the actors' feet. He qualifies this

slightly by saying that in The Dispute, there's a strange doubleness in the setting. The stage has to represent both the abstract base I've described and the very specific location of a contrived wilderness in the grounds of a country estate. Hence, the corner of a building from the Charlotten-

berg Gardens in Bertin featuring in the set. esting question than "which sex committed the first infidelity?" would be "which sex first thought of such a mean, futile question?", will be relieved to learn that that dispute is only the ostensible contention in Marivaux's play. What is most profoundly at issue, declares Bartlett, "are the two competing mythologies of childhood. Does every childhood inevitably re-enact the Fall? Or is evil the failure of parents?

"In her book about Mary Bell, Gita Sereny slips in a shocking statement. She talks about 'the intrinsic goodness of the human being as born'. But what about Mary Bell's mother? She must also have been naturally good. So where does the chain

end? That's the book's great silence." The perverted ingenuity of the experimental set-up in The Dispute extends to

the skin colour of the couple assigned to rear the children. Carise and Mesrou are black, the Prince reports, "so that their charges might be the more astonished when they see other people" - to maximise, in other words, their sense of disorientation on realising that their whiteness is not unique to them. At this point, the anten-Those of us who feel that a more inter- nae of Bartlett, the creative historian of theatrical culture, twitch. "What wouldn't we give to know," he muses, "if Carise and Mesrou were played by black actors at the original performance? And wouldn't it be fabulous to commission a play about the life of the two black performers in The Dispute after the curtain comes down?"

Frames-within-frames: a contrast between the power politics in the play and in the thestrical company. Somehow I fancy we won't have to wait many years for this intriguing hypothetical project. Most likely venue? The Lyric, Hammersmith. Most likely author? One Neil Bartlett.

'The Dispute' previews at The Other Place, Stratford from 24 Feb. (01789-295623) tours to Poole and Brighton; Lyric Hammersmith from 15 Apr (0181-741 2311)

Jam on, jam on

REVIEW

TOAST ROYAL COURT LONDON

CASTING AROUND for a title for his delightfully funny play set in a mass production bakery in Hull in the Seventies, Richard Bean has clearly been up against it. Carla Lane had already used up Bread. Watching Richard Wilson's beautifully acted and observed production, I kept wondering why Dough or The Bread Line had been ruled out. After all. the factory on which Bean trains his knowing lens is ailing, its weaknesses set to be exposed when a thriving Bradford sister-outfit suffers a cock-up one night and Hull has to bake enough bread for two cities. If the ultimatum can't be met. it looks like the place will be shut down. And between the men and success stand a jammed oven and a double-dealing colleague.

As Jerome K Jerome rightly asserted, there is nothing quite so restful as watching other people at toil and audiences like to enter alien territories whose tribal details are wonderfully exotic on stage, if not in life. In this cruddy teabag stained canteen, you're yanked right into the needling camaraderie, the powerplays and mutual survival techniques of this hard labouring world. Wilson establishes the divergencies with a care that attends to their different ways of smoking a cigarette.

News

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In a superb ensemble. Sam Kelly is hilarious and touching as beaming fiftysomething Cecil, whose henpecked sex-starvation is betrayed in the almost magnetised prurience with which he tracks his workmates' love lives. Bean has had the inspired idea of introducing a new recruit in the shape of an impostor, a posh, tweedy weirdo from the local asylum, played with perfectly barmy selfpreoccupation by Christopher Campbell. He fondly imagines that he's a messenger from beyond the grave and corners each of the men in turn. The joke is that nobody is really deceived. That comedy takes a poignant turn when fellow feeling is shown for this inadequate by Mark Williams's tough, unsmiling Blakey. Having spent six years in prison, he knows a fair bit about confinement and despair. Ewan Hooper, too, is immensely moving as "Nellie", the stoical, trembly old workhorse who, like the ovens he's enslaved to, would seize up and die if momentarily switched off.

The production lovingly re-evokes the decade that style forgot. I wince to admit that the clothes worn by Matthew Dunster's excellent Peter (straining cheesecloth, retinaabusing flares) is the kind of outfit your humble reviewer wore when basking on the lawns of Balliol with his now opposite number at The Daily Telegraph.

O tempora, O mores, Oy veh. PAUL TAYLOR To 6 Mar (0171-565 5000)

DEBUT: ALISON FISKE

The Time: 1965 The Place: the US The part: Lucy Lockit in The Beggar's Opera

THEATRE GROUP 20 was formed in 1965 by an American drama student called Gordon Taylor and Shivaun O'Casey. Sean O'Casey's daughter. It was based in a church hall in Warwick Avenue. The idea behind it was to hold graduates of the same drama centre training together as a company. It had an educational remit, which is how it got the necessary permits to tour the States. So while we - about half a dozen inexperienced nonsingers in our early twenties -

rehearsed The Beggar's Opera and a triple bill of two one-act plays and a monologue, Gordon Taylor booked a 40-date tour of American universities which took us through practically every state in the Union.

In four months we must have travelled 20,000 miles, in an old Greyhound bus. We went as far north as Washington State and as far south as the Mexican border Frank, the driver, was from the Bronx and stuck to his job - he never came to see the performances.

The moment we'd arrive in a campus, we'd unload the set and the costumes we needed, get in, do the show, then take it all down again. Exhaustion



quickly set in and there we were in this darkened coach, thundering through the changing landscape of North America, trying to recuperate before the next destination.

We were often hilleted with members of campus faculties. One couple were greatly looking forward to The Beggar's Opera - he was an 18th-century theare expert and she had perfect pitch. Their only comment was "very bawdy". At Harvard we danced a tarantella on a stage made from rostra with gaps in between. People missed entrances and the set fell down. There were unforgettable moments, such as when we saw Charlie Mingus bashing the lights out in a New York night-club because he was annoyed with the manager. As a way of seeing America, it was great. As a way to develop as an actor, I'm not so sure.

Six months later after some considerable re-rehearsal and by great good fortune, we were back in New York to do an offoff Broadway production of The Beggar's Opera and two plays by Harold Pinter. The Immigration Department raided us mid-performance because we were on the wrong visas. We had our fingerprints taken next day and were threatened with deportation if we didn't leave, which we did, that evening. INTERVIEW BY DOMINIC CAVENDISE

Alison Fiske is in 'Celaine' at Hampstead Theatre, London NW3 (0171-722 9301) port of 'A Small Drop of Ink., to 24 Feb

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Talk to New York Map No.13

*THE INDEPENDENT

ON THE FRINGE

THE LOST CHILD ON TOUR I FOURPLAY LYRIC STUDIO

theatre. A pregnant woman

(Gretel) goes through a

looking-glass in search of

both her mirror-self and a

(Hansel). Her unborn baby

is removed by a white-faced

fairy-lights - but, repeated

man who beckoned her

JUDGED BY its intentions alone, The Lost Child would be declared a must-see. The second in a trilogy of the same name by the David Glass Ensemble, it has grown out of the company's work with street children around the world.

Thousands were shown The Hansel Gretel Machine, which explored instances of abandonment through a mime version of the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, and their own answering experiences have contributed to the textless sequel.

Glass and his team - four actors, two designers and composer Jonathan Cooper - have fashioned a blackand-white "series of dream pictures" which are as

redolent of Luis Bunuel as the acknowledged inspiration, Lewis Carroll. They are accompanied by a sound-track that bombards the car with drum-rolled gunfire, sampled gurgles, mournful loops of piano and a legion of occidentaloriental effects. But the non-specificity of The Lost Child gives rise to unease

and confusion: images of brutalised or vulnerable youngsters are put to a metaphorical use which, while never entirely clear, seems to put the loss of innocence that comes with adulthood on a par with the traumas children can suffer at the hands of adults.

around a small proscenium

haldie with rabbit ears and a bandage-masked sidekick in a trench-coat and bowler hat. As creepy as the kiddycatcher from Chitty Chitty Bong Bong, this sinister duo tyrannise the children who live beneath the stage where they spend much time committing solvent abuse or blowing un polythene dolls, depending on how you look at it. You can't fault Glass's inventiveness - there are The piece takes the form some striking coups de of a quest conducted in and theatre with masks and

in combinations that defy decoding, they leave the audience stranded. So much emphasis is placed on structure that it ends up looking hollow. In Sergi Belbel's

interestingly flawed antifarce Fourplay, directed by Hans-Peter Kellner an elaborate formalism is deployed to point up an inner emptiness. In 38 brief, cut-up scenes.

nunctuated by cheesy incidental music, we are teased about what goes on when a sexless married couple bring two friends (male and female) together, with the hizarre motive of inaugurating their new bed. How much "action" takes place is thrown into question when suggestive

Belbel's miserable quartet. The Catalan playwright has heen compared with Pedro Almodóvar, hut the neurosis on display here is skindeep, used to make points about consumerism and entertainment that would have been better served with less contrivance. DOMINIC CAVENDISH

scenes are repeated with

more context: what might

embrace proves to be a slip-

up on a pool of vomit; the

smell of sex becomes the

odour of tobacco puffed by

have been a leshian

"The Lost Child', Birmingham Mac, Fri/Sat, 10121-440-38381 then tours; Tourplay', Lyric Hammersmith (0181-741 8701) to 20 Feb

No one asks 'what happened to you?'

I WORK FOR...

YVONNE WAFT WORKS FOR JAMES RYE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARKETING FOR SCOPE, THE CHARITY FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

ecame a wheelchair user at 19, and noticed how people suddenly treated me like a child. As a disabled woman in society I don't often feel understood, but working here means that I don't need to

I've been refused jobs in the past for various spurious reasons, I would apply for a job as a telephonist, for example, have a three-minute interview and then be told that the job was going to someone more "experienced". For a while I worked for the Corporation of London, as secretary in the access officer for people with disabilities. However, outside my department there were some oldfashioned views; to some people the fact that I was disabled and female

put me down among the vermin. The staff here are very friendly. relaxed and equality minded, partly because they've done disability awareness courses. As PA to the assistant director of Scope Tve got a reasonably elevated position, and it's nice not to be in a situation where I am looked down on as a disabled person who's lucky to have got herself a job at all.

When Glenn Hoddle made his statement about the disabled, the phones at Scope started buzzing with people calling us for comment. It was quite exciting because it gave us an opportunity to put across I'm not seen as a tragic, helpless cripple and no one asks "Oh dear, what happened to you?"

Locational Scope is working at challenging prejudices like this on a daily basis. I was pleased that we were now able to talk chart in abilities who play sport, particularly kids, that it's all the more inappropriate for a prominent sportsperson to make a comment like that. I was impressed by how on the ball Tony Blair was; it's quite rare for a prime minister to take a stand like that.

When I first heard Hoddle's statement, the first thought I had was "what a silly sod". But I wasn't really shocked, because I had studied the fears and prejudices about disability that you can detect in the undercurrent of popular opinion as part of my degree in psychology. which I completed last year. People often ask what you have done to deserve it and disability is often associated with disfigurement, ugliness and badness - prime examples being The Phantom of the Opera, Freddie Kruger, Captain Hook and Richard III. But assuming that disability is a punishment implies that



When Yvonne Waft heard Glenn Hoddle's remarks about disability she was not shocked because they reflect attitudes she has studied

Andrew Buurman

6.1 N. R.

11.

it must be an entirely bad experience, which in my opinion is quite untrue. I've got a first-class degree and a job, I drive around, I go swimming, and I got married last year.

My husband, however, was outraged by Hoddle's remark; I guess slavery, or Jews the Holocaust. I about product placement, which is

wonder what Hoddle thinks he did very important for us. For example, in his past life to deserve the punishment he's receiving now?

A lot of people working at secretarial level here have degrees; I don't know whether its specific to Scope or is in tune with society in generhe felt defensive and protective al. However most of my colleagues over me. When people argue that are happy to be here, largely be-Hoddle should have freedom of cause working for a charity is so respeech 1 wonder whether they warding. My job includes a lot of would feel the same way had he telephone work and I also liaise with claimed that black people deserved the advertising agency, particularly

you will notice there's a Scope charity box on the bar in EastEnders. Before working here I knew very little about Scope, except for the fact that it used to be called the Spastics So-ciety. But I subscribed to Disability Now, which turned out to be edited by one of my bosses here.

self, especially on the subject of discrimination 1 have a relaxed relationship with

Ironically, I have become a bit of a

regular fixture in the magazine my-

James; he is very easy-going and doesn't make it difficult for me to do the things I want to do, and he often asks my opinion.

Sometimes 1 wonder whether I am copping out by working for a charity for the disabled. But I can also see the potential for moving upwards within this environment, getting increasingly involved in research and the politics of disability. I'm terribly turned on by ideas and would like to do a PhD or move into clinical psychology training. I

think people often don't understand me because I tend to think academically, particularly on the subject of disability. As a result I sometimes get frustrated with people in the real world. But academics earn little, my husband's pay as a primary school teacher is basic and I've yet to pay off a student loan, so I think I'll stay here for a while; besides, 1 enjoy the sense of achievement that comes from indirectly helping people.

INTERVIEW BY KATTE SAMPSON

He came in a loincloth to brighten my birthday

SO WHAT'S the worst day of the year to be a temp? Your birthday. What's worse than that? When your birthday is the day after Valentine's and no one sends you a card for either. When it also happens that your hirthday is a Monday, you're scraping dangerously close to the nether regions of the barrel. Except when you spend the day filing paid bills in the basement of a

huge, faceless service-provider. I'll say this now: I hate filing. It's nne of those things that, in normal jobs, I farce myself to do first thing every morning for five minutes so that I don't have to spend time dreading it. I have been reduced to tears by the task. The combination of

mundanity, repetition and paper cuts is enough to make the toughest soul crumble. I have fantasies of hardened policemen, who have presided without a flicker over murdered children. rape victims and motorway pileups, sobbing as they pull out the same cardboard wallet for the seventh when the time for

paperwork comes. I know dentists are supposed to have the highest suicide rate in the country, but I'm sure that this is because no one has ever bothered to check the rates among filing clerks. This particular job has all the exquisite boredom of waiting for a Virgin train, for every piece of

paper is the same as the last

save for the figures and the name at the top.

> clerk can find interest from reading as they file, building up pictures of lives and events that, though they have been reduced in the final stage to misty, dogeared official documents, were once moments of great drama to the participants. Not here. Copies of hills that have been paid give nn indiction of the grief that settling them will have entailed. The wives who found nut about their husbands' gambling when they received a red hill, the shared households that split under the pressure of settling individual responsibility, the single mums going without

Sometimes, a curious filing



THE TEMP

food to make sure the kids are covered are all reduced to a single piece of paper stamped. with the date of settlement. Come lunchtime, I decide to take a hreak even though it means forgoing the extra £4.25. Some hirthday. So I head to the nearest greasy spoon for beans on toast and a Mars bar. Buy a magazine and read an interview with one of those glamorously successful women who has never had an urge to eat five Mars bars in succession and wash them down with a tin of Coke. Eat my beans as she confesses that she's about to turn 30. "I feel fine about it," she says. "You have to learn to be happy about your stage in life, or life will always be too much for you. And anyway," she continues, "I love birthdays. I always take the day off, and spend it being pampered. I have a massage, a steam bath and a facial, and give the time over to reflecting on where I am, what I have

achieved in the past year and what I intend to achieve in the coming one. I find it very useful to take the time out and check that I'm still on track."

Oh, well, 1 think, maybe that's

what I ought to be doing. Let's

see. I've had 28 inbs, one holiday.

a zillion cigarettes, had my shoes reheeled twice, and discovered that none of my friends cares that it's my hirthday. What do I want for the coming year? To buy new shoes. To have something to say about myself at parties that doesn't make people glaze over and go in search of the drinks. To get a juh: a real one, with payed holidays, sick leave, a desk of my own,

colleagues who knew it was my

birthday. Lord, how I'd love that. When I can't spin my stewed tea out any longer, I wander through the streets to the grim concrete edifice that is Electrical Holdings plc. In the basement, there's some giggling and staring going on when I walk in. I pick up another sheaf of paper and start sorting them alphabetically, when Brenda comes over. "Is it your birthday or something?" she says. I brighten instantly Someone cares after all. "Yes. How did you know?" They all burst out laughing. "You had a singing telegram while you were out," she says. "Tarzanagram, he was, in a loincloth. Said to tell you he'd be back at five n'clock."

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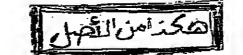
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DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG) Director: Will Patterson

Starring: Anthony Edwards, Jenny Seagrove So how bad is Don't Go Breaking My Heart? Well, first off, it wastes the skills of ER's Anthony Edwards as 8 Yankee sports therapist adrift in Blighty. Secondly, it overplays the supposed charms of Jenny Seagrove as the widowed mum he gets together with. This antique of a romantic weepie wheezes towards a finale so predictable that you'd have to be dead not to see it coming. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon tage, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

1 THINK 1 DO (15) Director: Brian Sloan

Metrology Market

Marie Park

1, 132 175

SHAZ HEEV

Starring: Alexis Arquetts, Christian Maelan

Ah, the wedding caper. An excuse for reunions, for an ensemble cast, for the tension of etiquette against emotion. Writer-director Brian Sloan ticks all the right boxes during this spry baby-boomer outing, but it's too hyperactive and ingratiating for its own good. West End: ABC Shoftesbury Avenue

JACK FROST (PG) **Director:** Troy Miller

Starring: Michael Keaton, Mark Addy The respective trajectories of two stars meet for an instant in this out-of-season Yuletide tale. On the way down goes Michael Keaton as a self-absorbed bluesman who dies and then gets reincarnated as a snowman. And on the way up is The Full Monty's Mark Addy as his salt-of-the earth best mate. They meet, they pass, and formula fim is had by all. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG) Director: Robert Benigni

Starring: Robert Benigni, Nicoletta Braschi See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleus, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

MADELINE (U)

Director: Daisy Von Scheder Mayer Starring: Frances McDormand, Nigel Hawthorne All aboard for storybook Fifties Paris. That gingerbread house on the corner is the boarding school attended by nine-year-old Madeline (Hatty Jones). That hatchet-faced woman out front is the strict instructor (Frances McDormand). That car going by is a Citroën. You get the picture. This overclogged rendering of Ludwig Bernelman's kids' stories looks a shade one-dimensional; all artistry and no art. West End: Clapham Picture House, Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cot- Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon

MY GIANT (PG)

Director: Michael Lehmann Starring: Billy Crystal, Gheorghe Muresan

Billy Crystal plods his way through Michael "Heathers" Lehmann's Lilliputian comedy about a sleazeball Hollywood agent who gets a few life lessons when he runs into a saintly giant (Gheorghe Muresan) in Romania. Expect size jokes in the middle, and glib morals at the end. Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Volley UCI 12, Feltham Cineworld the Movies, Harrow Warner Village

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS (18) Director: Neil Labute

Starring: Ben Stiller, Jason Patric

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

Virgin Trocadero. Repertory: The Lux Cinema, And local cinemas Prince Charles. And local cinemas

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: Barbican Screen, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema. Local: Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Richmond Odeon Studio. Cinema And local cinemas Repertory: National Film Theatre

A BUG'S LIFE (I)

Sec The Independent Recommends, above. st End: ARC Totlenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whitleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

BULWORTH (18)

Warren Beatty's new political satire is crude and condescending on occasion, yet genuinely audacious and committed, too. West End: Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End-ABC Panton Street, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith and Gene Hackman star in this big. noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller. West End: Odeon Camden Town. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum with her two daughters (Bella Riza, Carrie Mullan). Meanwhile, gormless backpackers, Sufi teachers and Said Taghmaout's love-interest weave across the narrative. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minema, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Wetson sustains Anand Tucker's wartsand-all biopic of the Du Pré sisters. West End: Cheisea Cinema, Curzon Soho, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15) Stella got her groove back by taking off to Jamaica with her feisty buddy (Whoopi Goldberg), sashaying around in a bikini and getting berself a little love action in the form of a man young enough to be ber son. Essentially this is Shirley Valentine with an Afro-American spin. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Company of the Parish

Timid Jane Horrocks perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus 8 marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine posh it through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

LIVING OUT LOUD (ISI See The Independent Recommends, above West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village

West End. And local cinemas

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG) This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed

Stoiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelseo. Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

Another troubling X-ray of American mores from In the Company of Men director Neil Labute. Your Friends and Neighbours widens its focus a little, yet in all other respects this looks like a carbon copy of Labute's debut. There are the same stage-bound confines, the same structured misanthropy, the same dense weave of dialogue. Two features in, and Labute has chewed this bone to bits already West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renair, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, And local cinemas

through 19th-century California in the company Computer-animated trifle about a worker ant of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic (voiced by Woody Allen) whn tries to break out do-gooder. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin of his totalitarian rut. West End. Ritzy Cinema, Fulham Road, Warner Village West End.

This animated feature about a girl who disguises In the follow-up to Babe, knockabout comedy is herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat is one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

PECKER (18)

Trash auteur John Waters swerves into sunnier streets with Pecker, his fluffily satirical tale of an amateur Baltimore photographer who is adopted as a fly-on-the-wall artiste by the New York elite. Pecker goes big on blue-collar kitsch without ever making any real, stringent point. West End: Clapham Picture House, Metro, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

What sustains the film is the ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra and too-cool-for-school demeanour West End: ABC Panton Street

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12)

Practical Magic sees Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman cast as two sisters raised from a line of witches and hexing any unlucky man who swings into their orbit. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (0) In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result ends up looking more like The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15) Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama featuring Tom Hanks and harsh, devastating battle sequences. West End: Plaza

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Coronet, Odean Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritsy Cinema, Screen. on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

This sugar-glazed, oven-ready affair casts an out-of-sorts Susan Sarandon as a middle-aged matriarch squabbling over her offspring with the new model mom (Julia Roberts) that hubby Ed Harris has hooked up with. West End. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (18)

Heather Graham and Natasha Gregson Warner are the duped girlfriends of Robert Downey Jr's love-rat prima donna. Two Girls and a Guy gives them plenty of room to move and breathe, turning the yarn into a pungent acting showcase. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

VERY BAD THINGS (18)

Peter Berg's debut serves up swaggering grossout comedy in a Loaded-magazine style, but it's ultimately a film with nowhere to go. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch. Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) (PG)

Roberta Benigni directs and stars in this tragicomic fable about an Italian Jew who tries to shield his boy from the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp by pretending that the brutal regime is an e)aborate game.

Shakespeare in Love (15) This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired

Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for Romeo and Juliet. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

Living Out Loud (15)

Holly Hunter plays a Manhattan woman who, left by her husband, hefriends the elevator operator in her building. Writer Richard LaGravenese handles everything with affectionate restraiot.

A Bug's Life (U) More child-friendly than Ante, this animated

leature spins another enjoyable yarn about ao ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

The Opposite of Sex (18)

Christina Ricci (right) plays 16-year-old birch-on-wheels Dedec, who causes all kinds of havor when she moves in with her half-brother (Martin Donovan).

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Copenhagen (Duchess Theatre,

London) Michael Frayn's profouod and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation (right). To 7.4ug

Okiahoma!

(Lyceum Theatre, London) Widely regarded as the best ever. Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer.

The Street of Crocodiles (Queen's Theatre, London)

Triumphani revival of Theatre de Complicite's surreal and scaring plunge into the imagination of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz. To 20 Feb

The Winter's Tale (R5C, Stratford) An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov. style production. In rep to 4 Mar

Darkness Falls (Palace Theatre, Watford) Jonathan Holloway's entertalmiogly creepy doublebill of ghostly chillers about our deepest wishes and

the price we pay for them. To 20 Feb

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery) Some of the most intense portraiture ever. Women: exquisite melanges of flesh and fahric, dreams of

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery) This survey of nearly 50 years' worth of work offers Caulfield's full rang - notably, those hold become outlines, blocked in with transfacent colour.

Art Gallery) "I saw this" - three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callet. from the blackest of times

(right). To 20 Mar Thinking Aloud

(Cornerhouse, Manchester) Sculptor Richard Wentworth curates an exploration of creativity in art and design; an assortment of

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) Piccadfily Circus Hamam: The

Turkish Bart 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Switchblade Sisters 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm,

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) & Leicester

(0870-902 0403) & Couse Square/Piccadilly Circus Buffalo 66 3.55pm, 8.40pm Class Trip 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm Un Homme et une Femme 1:40pm, 6.25pm Hotel du Femme 1-50pm, 6.25pm Hotel du Nord 2,40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.05pm La Vie Revée des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm,

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT

ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Totrenham Court Road A Bug's Life 1.20pm, Voice 1.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 7.05pm, Texas Chainsaw massacre 9.40pm Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 9.25pm 3.45pm, 6.30pm,

BARBICAN SCREEN Shakespeare in Love 6pm.

8.40pm CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) → Sloane Square Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) & Clapham Common A Bug's Life 1pm, 3pm. 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Hideous Kinky 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Madeline 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm Pecker 7.30pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) ⊕ Green Park Life is Beautiful 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm)) Ourt Road Hideous Kinky
1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9pm
Hillary and Jackle 1.30pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 9.15pm Your Friends
and Neighbors 1.15pm, 3.15pm,
1.5pm, 3.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE Egypt 3.15pm. 6pm. 8.15pm Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm. 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) © Notting Hill Gate Your Friends and Neighbors 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm (+ Short: Yattoo)

METRO

(0171-734 1506) ↔ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square The Applic (Sib) 2pm, 6.30pm Dobermann 4.15pm, 8.45pm Pecker 3pm. 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) ↔ Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge His Kinky 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Hickorys NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) Notting Hill Gate Shakespeare in Love 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm **ODEON CAMPEN TOWN** (08705-050007) ← Camden Town A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.20pm. .35pm, 6.45pm, 8.50pm Little Voice 11.50am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm Pecker 12.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm Shakespeare in Love 12.10pm. 2.50pm, S.45pm, 8.25pm Your Friends and Neighbors 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

ODEON HAYMARKET 8.45pm

OBEON KENSTNGTON
(08705-050007) — High Street
Kensington A Burg's Life 11.45am,
2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm,
9.45pm Butworth 7pm Don't Go
Breaking My Heart 2pm, 4.30pm,
7pm, 9.30pm Life is Beautiful
1pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm
Little Voice 1.50pm, 4.25pm,
9.45pm Madeline 1.45pm, 4pm
Shakespeare in Love 12.10pm,
3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
Stepmom 6.25pm, 9.25pm **ODEON KENSINGTON**

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705-050007) → Leicester Square A Bug's Life 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(08705-050007) ⊕ Marble Arch A
Bug's Life 11.45am, 2.05pm,
4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm Don't
Go Breaking My Heart 11.50am,
2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm,
9.10pm Enterny of the State
12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm
Madeline 1.30pm, 3.45pm
Shakespeare in Love 12.35pm,
3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm
Stepmom 6.05pm, 8.55pm **ODEON MARBLE ARCH**

ODEON MEZZANINE (08705-050007) ← Leioster Square Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The 3.35pm, 9.20pm, 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 2.35pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm The Siege 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (08705-050007) ← 5wiss Cottage A Bug's Ure 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm, 9pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.30pm, 4pm, Breaking My Heart 1,30pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8,45pm Hideous Kinky 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Hilary and Jackle 4pm Little Voice 6.20pm, 8.50pm Madeline 12.10pm, 2.05pm Shakespeare in Love 12.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Your Friends and Neighbors 1pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

ODEON WEST END

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) & Piccadilly Circus Everest 4.45pm, 9.05pm L5 (IMAX) 2.40pm, 7pm T-Rex: Back To the Cretaceous (3-D) 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, PLAZA

0990-888990) @ Piccadilly Circus (0990-889990) & Piccadily Circle Sabe: Pig In the City 12.40pm Saving Private Ryan 3pm. 7.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.15pm. 6.15pm, 8.45pm Very 8ad Things 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

(0171-837 8402) O Russell Square Hideous Kinky 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Your Friends and Neighbors 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm

RUZY ONEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/O Brixton A Bug's Life 1.50pm, 3.35pm, 5.25pm, 7.15pm, 9.05pm The Eel 2.30pm Kideous Kinky 2.45pm, 2.30pm Hideous Kinky 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 9.15pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 7.05pm Life is Beautiful 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mutan 12.50pm Shakespeare in Love 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm Your Friends and Neighbors 4.40pm,

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) © Baker Street Hideous Kinky 2.30pm, 4.40pm. 6.50pm, 9pm Your Friends and Neighbors 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm (+ 5hort: Steeping with the Fishes) SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) ↔ Highbury & Islington Shakespeare in Love

3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9pm SCREEN ON THE HILL, (0171-435 3366) + Belsize Park Life is Besudful 2.15pm, 4,30pm, 6,50pm, 9,15pm

(0990-888990) → Queensway A Bug's Life 11.15am, 11.40am,

UCI WHITELEYS

Bug's Life 11.15am, 11.40am, 1.30pm, 2.20pm, 4pm, 4,40pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm Hideous Kinky, 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Jack Frost 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm Life is Beautiful 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 6.40pm, 9.20pm Madeline 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm The Opposite of Sex 7.10pm, 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.30am Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Stepmom 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 9.50pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA
[0870-907 0710] Sloane
Square/South Kensington A Bug's
Life 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 4.55pm,
7.15pm, 9.30pm Bulworth
6.15pm, 9.15pm Life is Beautiful
1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
Madeline 1pm, 3pm The Parent
Trap 12.45pm, 3.15pm Scepmom
6pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) ↔ Kensington Hideous (0870-907 0711) 4 South Kensington Hideous Kinky 7.10pm. 9.20pm Jack Frost 12noon. 2.10pm, 4.20pm. 6.30pm Little Volce 1.30pm. 3.40pm. 6.30pm. 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 4pm The Opposite of Sext 2pm. 4.20pm. 6.40pm. or Seak 2pm, 4.20pm, 5.40pm, 9pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm Two Garls and a Guy 9.40pm Your Friends and Neighbors 12.40pm, 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET Company North Harman Company C VIRGIN TROCADERO

(0870-907 0716) → Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.30pm, 2.35pm, 4.45pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back How Stella Got Her Groove Isacx 6pm, 8.50pm Jack Frost 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm Living Out Loud 1pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Madeline 12.05pm, 2.05pm, 4.05pm Pecker 8.50pm Practical Magic 12noon, 2.35pm 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm 2.15pm, 4.30pm 6.50pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in Love 12noon. 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things 6.40pm, 9.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) & Leicester Square Bulworth 1.45pm, Square Bulworth 1.45pm,
4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Don't
Go Breaking My Heart 12noon,
2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
How Stella Got Her Groove Back
5.50pm, 8.30pm Jack Prost
11.30sm, 1.45pm, 4.05pm,
6.30pm Jiving Out Loud 1pm,
3.35pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Madeleine
11.20sm, 1.30pm, 3.45pm The
Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.30pm,
6.50pm The Opposite of Sex
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 6.50pm The Opposite of Sex 1.10pm. 3.40pm. 6.10pm. 8.50pm A Perfect Murder 9.10pm Practical Magic 1.30pm. 4pm. 6.40pm. 9.20pm (+ Short: Eight (Rush Hour 9.40pm Very Bad Things 1.40pm. 4.10pm. 6.35pm. 9pm

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ACTON
PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE
(0181-896 0066) Park Royal A
Bug's Life 10am. 11.20am,
12.10pm. 1.30pm. 2.30pm.
3.50pm. 4.50pm. 6.10pm. 7.10pm,
8.30pm. 9.25pm Don't Go Breakling My Heart 12ncon. 2.10pm.
4.20pm. 6.30pm. 8.55pm Enemy
of the State 7.20pm. 10pm How
Stella Got Her Groove Back
4.10pm. 7pm. 9.50pm Jack Frost
10.25am. 12.40pm. 3pm. 5.20pm.
7.40pm Little Voice 6.50pm Made-7,40cm Little Voice 6.50cm Made-7.40pm Little Voice 6.30pm Made-line 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.40pm. 4.40pm My Glant 11am, 1.10pm The Parent Trap 11.50am, 2.20pm Practical Magic 3.20pm The Prince of Egypt 10am, 12noon, 2pm Shakespeare in Love 10.40am, 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.35pm 1.20pm. 4pm. 6.40pm, 9.35pm The Siege 10.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 5.10pm Stepmam 6pm. 8.40pm Very Bad Things 9.10pm

BARNET ODEON (08705 050007) + High Barnet A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.05pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm Little Voice 4pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Madeline I 2noon, 2pm Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Stepmom 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

BECKENHAM ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Jack Frost 1.10pm. 3.40pm, 6.30pm Little Voice

8.50pm Shakespeare in Love 2pm.

5.40pm, 8.30pm BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bedeyheath Antz 12.05pm A Bug's Life 11am, 12noon, 1.15pm. 2.15pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.45pm, 6.45pm, 7.45pm, 8.45pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 3.10pm. S.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.35pm Hilary And Jackie 2pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm. 9.40pm Hum Aapke DT Mein Re-hte Hain 2.45pm, 8.30pm Jack Frost 11.30am. 1.45pm. 6.25pm Little Voice 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm rough drafts, doodles and models. To 28 Feb.

Madeline 11am, 1pm, 3pm The Par-ent Trap 12.30pm Practical Mag-ic 12.30pm, 6.15pm The Prince Of Egypt 11,25am Shakespeare In

BROMLEY OPEON (08705 050007) BR; Bromley North A Bug's Life 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Little Voice 6.25pm, 9pm Madeline 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm The Parent Trap 11.55am Shakespeare In Love 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Stepmom 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

ABC (0181-698 3306) 8R: Catford A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm Shakespeare in Love 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm

8R: East Croydon Life is Beautiful 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Prince Of Egypt 11am

surrection phone for details SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon. A Bug's Life 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8pm Jack Frost 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm Living Out Loud 9pm Practical Magic 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm

tie voice 6.40pm, 9.05pm maceine 11.40am, 2pm, 4.20pm The Parent Trap 10.20am, 1.10pm Practical Magic 4.05pm The Prince of Egypt 11.10am, 1.30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12noon Stepmorn 3.55pm. 6.30pm. 9.15pm Very Bad Things 9.50pm

DAGENHAM

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020(& Dagenham Heathway Antz 10,35am A Bug's Life 10,30am, 11am. 12.40pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 3.40pm, 5.10pm, 6pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.40pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 12.30pm, 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Enemy Of the State 9pm How Stella Got Market 8.20pm Enemy Description of the State 9pm How Stella Got Market 8.20pm Enemy Enemy Energy 1.20pm Enemy Energy 1.20pm Enemy Energy 1.20pm Ene Her Groove Back 9.20pm Jack Frost 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm Little Voice 6.50pm, 9.10pm Madeline 10.50am, 1.20pm, 3.50pm The Parent Trap 10.40am, 3.50pm are Parent trap 10.40cm, 1.45pm, 4.30pm Practical Magic 4pm, 6.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.30am, 2pm, 4.20pm Shakespeare In Love 10.45am, 1.15pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11.20am, 1.40pm Stepmom 6.10pm, 8.50pm

Very Bad Things 7.20pm, 9.50pm EALING VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/O Ealing Broadway A Bug's Life 11.45am, 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm. 8.50pm Madeline

Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.35pm Daag phone for times Kuch Kuch Hota Hal phone for times The Prince of Egypt 12.45pm, 2.45pm Zakhm phone for

3.40pm. 6.40pm, 9.05pm Star Trek; Insurrection 5.30pm Step-mom 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things 9.10pm

Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)

The gardens and lify ponds at Giverny dissolve into elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, voids and depths. The strange last works of Impressionism. To 18 Apr.

sex and money. To 25 Apr

To 11 . lpr

Disasters of War (Wolverhampton

Gove and Ono Dix. Visions

Love 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm Stepmom 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm Very Bad Things 9.50pm The Wings Of The Dove 9pm FELTHAM

CATFORD

CROYDON CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030)

FAIRFIELD HALLS (0181-688 9291) 8R: East Croydon The Prince of Egypt 7.45pm Star Trek: In-

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Antz 10.30am A Bug's Life 11.10am, 12.10pm, 1.20pm, 2.30pm, 3.40pm, 4.50pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 2.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm. 8.40pm Enemy Of the State 6.50pm, 9.40pm Jack Frost 11.50am, 2.20pm, 5pm, 7.20pm Lit-tle Voice 6.40pm, 9.05pm Madeline

12.30pm, 2.30pm Shakespeare In Love 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Step-mom 5.30pm, 8.30pm EDGWARE BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) € Edgware Aa Ab Laut Chalen phone for times Antz 12.50pm, 2.50pm

EDMONTON LEE VALLEY UC1 12 (0990-888990) Tottenham Hale Antz 11.45am, 2.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.30pm A Bug's Life 10.30am. 11am. 11.30am. 1pm. 1.30pm. 2pm. 3.30pm. 4pm. 4.30pm. 6pm. 6.30pm. 7pm. 8.30pm, 9.30pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 4.45pm, 7.30pm, 10pm Enemy of the State 9.20pm Hilary And Jackle 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 7.15pm, 9.50pm Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehte Hain Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehte Hain 8pm Jack Frost 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 7pm Little Voice 9.40pm Madeline 10.45am, 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm The Mask of Zor-ro 10.45am My Giant 10.15am, 3.45pm The Parent Trap 12noon, 2.45pm Practical Magic 8.50pm The Prince of Egypt 10pm Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm,

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4908) O Elephani & Castle A Bug's Life 1 30pm, 4pm, 6 30pm, 8 40pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 2pm, 4 15pm, 6 30pm, 8.55pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0191-867 0555) BR. Feliham Aa Ab Laut Chalen 11 45am, 3.30pm, 7.15pm Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm A Bug's Life 11am, 12noon, 1.15pm, 2.15pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.45pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.45pm, 6.45pm, 7.45pm, 8.45pm Daag 2.30pm, 9.30pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Enemy of the State 6.20pm, 9pm Hilary And Jackle 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehte Hain 11.15am, 2.45pm, 6.20pm, 9.45pm Jack Frost 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm Little Volce 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Madeline 11.50am, 1.30pm, 3.50pm My Glant 12.30pm, 2.15pm The Opposite of Sex 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 11.30am, 2pm Practical Magic 11.40am, 2pm Practical Magic 11.40am, 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 5hakespeare in Lowe 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm Shahhed-E-Mohabbat 11.10am, 6.15pm, 6.45pm The Siege 9.15pm Stepmom 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Very Bad Things 9.15pm

9.15pm

NORTH FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344(← East Finchley/Finchley Central Antz 10.25am A Bug's Life 11,30am, 12ncon, 2pm, 2,50pm, 4,30pm, 5,30pm, 7,10pm, 7,50pm, 9,30pm, 10pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 12,40pm, 3pm, 5,10pm, 7,40pm, 9,50pm Enemy of the State 9pm Jack Frost 11am, 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm Little Volce 6.20pm Madeline 11.10am, 1.30pm, 4pm The Parent Trap 10.15am, 1.10pm Practical Magic 6.50pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 10.40am, 1.15pm Shake-speare in Love 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection

3.50pm Stepmom 4.10pm. 7pm, 9.40pm Very Bad Things 9.10pm FINCHLEY ROAD WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110] © Finchley Road A Bug's Life 11am, 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm, 10.30pm Bulworth 7.50pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 3pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 10.15pm Enemy of the State 10pm Jack Prost 12noon, 2.30pm, 10pm Jack Prost 12ncon, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm Little Voice 7.30pm Madeline 11.40am, 2pm, 4.30pm The Opposite of Set 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm The Parent Trap 12.05pm Practical Magic 9.40pm The Parent Strap 12.05pm Practical Magic 9.40pm The Prince of Egypt 11.30am, 1.50pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm

Stepmom 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.50pm Very Bad Things 10.05pm **GOLDERS GREEN** ABC (0181-455 1724) @ Golders Green A Bug's Life 1 45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

GREENWALN CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR. Greenwich A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.20pm. 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

GREENWICH

Life is Beautiful 4,15pm, 6,45pm 9.15pm Little Voice 2.15pm Made-line 12.05pm, 1.50pm Shakespeare In Love 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm HAMPSTEAD ABC (0870-9020413) & Betsize ABC (0870-9020413) & Besize Park A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Jack Frost 1.55pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm Little Voice 8.50pm Shakespeare in Love

2.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm **HAMMERSMITH** VIRGIN (0870-9070718) & Hammersmith A Bug's Life 12noon. 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm Jack Frost 1pm, 3pm, 6.30pm Little Voice 8.50pm Madeline 12.10pm. 2.10pm, 4.10pm Shakespeare in Love 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm. 9.10pm Stepmom 6.20pm, 9

HARROW WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) O Harrow on the Hill Antz 11am A Bug's Life 10.45am. 11.10am. 1.15pm, 1.40pm. 3.35pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 8.30pm, 9.10pm, 0.0m; G. Opm, 8.30pm, 9.10pm Don't Go Break-Ing My Heart 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Enemy Of the State 9pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 5.40pm, 8.20pm Jack Frost 11.40am, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm Little Voice 6.30pm Madelline 9.35am, 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pmMy Glant 10.20am, 12.40pm, 3.10pm The Parent Trap 9.40am, 12.25pm Practical Magic 7pm, 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.20am, 1.35pm Shakespeare in 10.40am, 1.30pm, 4.10am Love 10.40am, 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm Stepmom 3.20pm. 6pm, 8.40pm Very Bad Things

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Lives

HOLLOWAY

ODEON (0870S 050007) + Holloway Road/Archway A Bug's Life 12.05pm, 12.30pm, 1.05pm, 2.20pm, 2.40pm, 3.25pm, 4.35pm, 4.50pm, 5.45pm, 6.50pm, 8.05pm, 9.05pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm. 9.05pm Enemy of the State 8.35pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 5.55pm, 8.40pm Jack Frost 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm Little Voice 8.55pm Madefine 12.10pm, 2.05pm, 4pm Shakeeare in Love 12.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Stepmom 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

ILFORD ODEON (08705 050007) → Gants Hill A Bug's Life 11.40am. 2pm. 4.20pm. 6.40pm. 8.50pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 11.30am. 1.50pm. 4.10pm. 6.30pm. 8.40pm Little Voice 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Madeline 1.20pm, 3.20pm 3.43pm Madeine 1.20pm, 5.20pm The Prince of Egypt 11.35am Shakespeare in Love 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Stepmom

THE TRICYCLE (0171-328 1000) Kilburn Hideous Kinky 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 4pm

5.30pm, 8.10pm

KINGSTON UPON THAMES ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) ASC. OPTIONS (0070-9020409) 8R: Kingston A Bug's Life 1.20pm. 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Jeck Frost 1.30pm. 4pm, 6.30pm Little Voice 8.50pm Shakespeare In Love 2.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm

MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705 050007) Highgate A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.05pm Madeline 12.35pm, 2.25pm, 4.15pm Shakespeare in Love 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Stepmom 6.05pm, 8.35pm

PECKHAM REMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: PriceMier (0181-235-3000) BR: Peckham Rye Antz 12.10pm A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm. 7pm, 9.10pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 3pm, 5.25pm. 8pm Enemy of the State 9.05pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 5.20pm, 9pm Living Out Loud 5.30pm, 7.30pm Madeline 12.05pm, 1.50pm, 3.40pm Mulan 11.50am The Parent Trap 12.35pm Pecker 9.30pm Practical Magic 1.35pm, 3.35pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm Shakespeare in Love 4.05pm. 6,40pm. 9.15pm Switchblade Sisters 9.55pm

PURLEY ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley A Bug's Life 1,20pm, 3,40pm, 6pm, 8,25pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 8,35pm Jack Prost 1,55pm, 4,10pm, 6,20pm Shakespeare In Love 2,10pm, 5,10pm, 8,10pm

ABC (0870 9020401) & Putney Bridge/BR: Putney A Bug's Life 12.45pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm. 8.15pm Jack Frost 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm Little Voice 8.45pm Shakespeare in Love 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ODEON (08705 050007) 8R/O Richmond A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/e Richmond Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Hilary And Jackie 6.30pm, 9.20pm Hilary And Jackie 6.30pm, 9.10pm Madeline 12.30pm, 2.50pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.20pm Stepmont 2.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Your Friends And Neighbors 5pm, 7.25pm, 9.45pm

ROMFORD A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, Iworth 8.45pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 2pm, 4.20pm. 6.35pm, 8.40pm Jack Frost 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford Antz 12.10pm A Bug's Life 11.15am. 12noon. 1.3upm, 2.2upm, 3.4spm, 4.45pm, 6pm, 7pm. 8.30pm, 9pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Dr Dollttle 10.15am Jack Frost 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm Little Voice 6.40pm, 8.45pm Made-line 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 4.55pm, Trap 1.30pm 4.15pm Practical Magic 8.55pm The Prince of Egypt 11.30am Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm

SIDCUP Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm The Parent Tran 5.15pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm Shakespeare in Love

STAPLES CORNER FIRGIN 10870-90707171 BR: Cricklewood A Bug's Life 12noon, 1pm, 2.20pm, 3.30pm, 4.40pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1,15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Enemy of the State 9.15pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 9.15pm Jack Frost 1.30pm. 4pm, 6.40pm Madeline 12noon, 2.05pm, 4.15pm Shake-speare in Love 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 8.50pm Stepmom STREATHAM

ABC | 10870-9020415| BR: Streatham Hill Don't Go Breaking My Heart 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Jack Frost 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm Living Out Loud 8.55pm Shakespeare in Love

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill & Brixton/Clapham Common Aa Ab Laut Chelen 7.20pm A Bug's Life 12.10pm. 2.30pm. 4.50pm, 7pm, 9pm Enemy of the State 5.45pm 8.25pm w Stella Got Her Groove Back 5.45pm. 8.25pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 3.40pm Madeline 12.10pm, 2pm. 3.50pm The Parent Trac 2.40pm, 3.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm Stepmom 12.20pm 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm

NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/O 11.45am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.4**0**pm 9.10pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 6pm, 8.40pm Madeline 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.30pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.15pm 8.50pm Stepmom 6.30pm, 9pm

SURREY QUAYS UCI (0990 888990) + Surrey Quays Antz 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm A Bug's Life 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm En-emy of The State 9.10pm Hideous Kinky 7.30pm, 10pm

How Stella Got Her Groove Back 8.40pm Jack Frost 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm Little Voice 4.10pm, 6.45pm Madeline 11am, 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm The Opposite of Sex 9pm The Parent Trap 10.45am. 1.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.45am, 2.10pm Shakespeare in Love 12,45pm, 3,20pm, 6,30pm, 9,30pm Stepmom 12noon, 2,50pm, 5,45pm, 8,50pm

UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sut-ton/O Morden Antz 11.15am, 1.30pm A Bug's Life 10.30am. 1.30pm A Bug's Life 10.30am. 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm. 7pm Enemy of the State 9.30pm Hilary And Jackie 3.15pm, 6.15pm. 9pm Little Voice 7.15pm, 9.50pm Madeline 11am, 1.15pm, 4.10pm The Parent Trap 10.45am The Prince of Egypt 10.15am Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm Stepmom 6.45pm, 9.45pm

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519)
O Tumpike Lane A Bug's Life
1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm
Don't Go Breaking My Heart
4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.15pm Madeline
1.15pm, 3pm Shakespeare in Love
1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm UXBRIDGE

ODEON (08705 050007) - Uxbridge A Bug's Life 11,35am, 2pm, 4,30pm, 7pm, 9,15pm Shakespeare in Love 1,10pm, 3,30pm, 6,10pm, 8,40pm nall Soldiers 10.55am WALTHAMSTOW

ABC (0870-9020424) & Waltham-stow Central A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Bulworth 8.20pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm Jack Frost 1.25pm 3.55pm, 6.05pm

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.05pm, 6.55pm, 9pm Madeline 2.20pm, 4.20pm Shakespeare in Love 6.15pm,

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eitham A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Bulworth 8.55pm Jack Frost 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm WILLESDEN

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822)

Willesder Green Bollywood Film phone for times A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/OWimbledon A Bug's Life 11.20am,
1,45pm, 4,10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
Don't Go Breaking My Heart
2.05pm, 4,20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm
Little Voice 6.30pm, 8.50pm
Madeline 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.25pm
The Parent Trap 11.30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.10pm, 2.55pm,
5.35pm, 8.20pm Star Trek: Insur-5.35pm, 8.20pm Star Trek; Insurrection 12.25pm Stepmom 2,40pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) South
Woodford A Bug's Life 1.10pm,
3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Jack
Frost 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm Little
Voice 8.45pm Shakespeare in Love
2.45em 5.20em, 9.10em 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Madeline 2pm, 3.50pm Stepmom 5.30pm, 8.20pm

CINEMA

CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Piace SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) Trois Vies et une Seule Mort (NC)

ICA The Mail, SWI (0171-930 3647) Not Watching Paint Dry: Film and Art Technique (NC) 5pm Anima Channel 4/Arts Council Collabora-tion Highlights (NC) 6.30pm Figures in a Landscape: Shorts (NC) 9pm THE LUX Hoxton Square, N1 (0171-684 02011 Rio at the Lux: Live Flesh (18) 7pm + Hamam: The Turk-ish Bath 8.50pm

NFT South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232) Homeward Bound: The In-credible Journey (U) 2.30pm The Barbarian: Novarro (NC) 6.15pm Special Event (NC) 7.30pm Five with Les Six: Friday Favourite: Shorts (NC) 8.20pm In a Year

PHOENIX High Road, N2 (0181-444 6789) The Prince of Egypt (U) 2pm Hideous Kinky (15) 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

WC2 (0171-437 8181) The English Patient (15) 1pm Angels with Dirty Faces (NC) 4.1Spm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1B) 6.30pm Blade (18) 9.10pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Drowning by Numbers (18) 6.30pm + Prospero's People 9 E0-20

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) The Prince of Egypt (U) 1.30pm, 4.45pm Hilary and Jack-le (15) 6.45pm, 9pm

DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) Hideous Kinky (15) 1.45pm Hilary and Jackle (15) 4pm, 8.45pm Vic-tory (15) 6.15pm The Acid House (18) 8.30pm

BRISTOL WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Hideous Kinky (15) 5pm Hilary and Jackie (15) 6.05pm, 8.35pm Peck-er (18) 8.25pm

CAMBRIDGE ARTS (01223-504444) The Double Life of Veronique (15) 12.30pm Hi-lary and Jackie (15) 2.45pm, 5pm.

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Your Friends and Neighbors (18) 2.30pm, 8pm Pecker (18)

CHICHESTER NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) The Parent Trap (PG)

FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) The Prince of Egypt (U) 2.30pm Dober-mann (18) 6pm, 8.15pm The Opposite of Sex (18) 6.15pm, 8.30p

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Antz (PG) 2,30pm The Disappearance of Finbar (15) 2.30pm Mandragora (NC) 8.15pm ♣ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm. [7] 5pm. £10-£24.50.

THEATRE

Ticket availability details are for to-day; dmes and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● — Seats at all prices D — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Mati-nees — |1|: Sun. [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed. [5]: Thur. [6]: Fri. [7]: Sat

) ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is Interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gleigud Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ. Monsat 7 45nm [517] June and 6 Mar. Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 6 Mar, £19.50-£27.50, £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views). 130 mins.

• AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salleri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/O Wa-terloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

ANNIE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street. SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/& Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. [1] 4pm, ends 28 Feb. £12.50-£32.50. 165 ART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb,

Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) O Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm. (7](1) 5pm, £9.50-£27.50.90 mins. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy-tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, WI (0171-656 1888) 9 Tott C. Ed. Mon. Set 7, 30cm (4171

Ct. Rd. Mon-Sat. 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mlns. **BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus**sell's long-running Liverpool musi-cal melodrama about twins who are separated at birth. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WCZ (0171-369 1733) Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7,45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32,50. 165 mins.

DUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. strand Aldwych, WC2 10171-930 8800) & Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu 8pm, Frl.5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats 111 4pm. £10-E30, half price Friday mathees,

DCATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) & Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3[[7] 3pm, £10.50-£35.165 mins.

CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightchub act. Adel-phi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, WI (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ, Wedstern, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, [1] 5pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, [1] 5pm, ends 20 Feb, £6-£25. D COPENHAGEN New drama from

Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) ◆ Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £10-£30.

 DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN Mark Little stars in this witty and wise comedy about the sexes. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) O Picc Circ. Tonight 7pm, £10-£25, concs available.

DR POLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this oew stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Ham-mersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) ⊕ Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £12.50-£32.50. 150 mins.

 FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timber-lake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play, Pic-cadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ. In rep. tonight 8pm, ends 27 Feb, £12-£30. 120 mins.

• GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) [4)[7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production ned prod of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5045) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm.]7] 4pm. £7.50-£29.50. 165 mlns.

♠ AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephe Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charmg Cross Road. WC2 (0171-494 50951 & Leic So. Mon-Frl 7.45pm.

I LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EU-NUCHS Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Halliwell's drama. Comedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8p [5][7] 3pm. ends 13 Mar, £7-£27.50.

) THE MEMORY OF WATER Al-ison Steadman and Julia Sawalha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral Vaudeville 5trand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/O Charing X. Mon-Sat 6p [5][7] 3pm, £8-£27.50.

A LES MUSERABLES Musica dramatisation of Victor Bugo's mas-terpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm,

MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Modam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal. Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden. Mon-165 mins.

) AMERICAN IMPORTS: MOR-PHIC RESONANCE A spiky depic tion of thirtysomethings as part of the American Imports season. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) → Covent Garden. THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St. Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443)

) OKLAHOMA! Maureen Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed production of Rodgers and Hammer-stein's cowboy v farmhand musical. Lyceum Wellington Street, WC2 (0870-506 3446/cc 606 6446) O Charing X/Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, ends 26 June, £10-£35.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 \$400/cc 344 4444) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7) 3pm, £10-£35. 150

▶ RENT Musical inspired by La Bo-heme and set in modern day New York Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Av-enue, WC2 (07000-211221) ⊕ Hol-born/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4)[7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160

● RICHARD III Robert Lindsay

stars as the historical villain. Savoy Strand. WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc

836 0479) & Charing X/Embank

ment. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [7] 2.30pm. £10-£27.50. ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE OLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliv-er's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep. today 2pm & 7,15pm, ends 20 Feb.

●LYTTELTON: The Forest Alan Ay ekbourn's new version of Ostrovsky's black social satire stars Frances de la Tour. In rep. tonight 7,30pm.

COTTESLOE: Gulding Star Jonathan Harvey's new play gives a tender account of the life of Hills-borough disaster survivor. In rep, to-day 2.30pm & 7.30pm. ends 5 Apr. 150 mlns. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottesioe: £12.£18, Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/& Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

THE BARBICAN: The Merchant Of Venice RSC production of Shake-speare's drama about love and money. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 9 Mar. 180 mins. Barbican Theatre: £5-£27, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891]. O Barbican,

1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020)

Oxford Circus, Mon-Sat 7,30pm, [4((7(2.30pm, £10-£32.50.

SHOCKHEADED PETER Brilliant junk opera, featuring the Tiger Lil-lies. Lyric Hammersmith King 5treet, W6 (0181-741 2311) ⊕ Hammet-smith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2,30pm, ends Apr 10, £5-£18, ● STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musi-

cal Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) 8R/+ Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3([7] 3pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins. OTHE STREET OF CROCODILES

Richard Bean's new drama set in a Hull bakery. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street. WC2 (0171-565 5000) Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7pm, [7] 4pm, ends 6 Mar. £10, concs £5.

● VASSA Howard Davies directs a new stage version of Maxim Gorky's tale of a matriarch and her downtrodden family. Albery St Mar-tin's Lane. WC2 (0171-369 1730)

THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) 5t Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq/Charng X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7]

THEATRE

BEYOND THE WEST END

ALMEIDA THEATRE Certain Young

Men Peter Gill's comedy of con-temporary manners looks at the sexuality and the modern man. Mon-sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 3pm, ends 20 Feb. £9.50-£19.50. concs avail-

able. Almelda Street, N1 (0171-359

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Jack-son Ward Dark comedy about retired

surgeons. Tue-Sun 1pm, ends 7 Mar.

The Vagina Monologues Eve Ensier performs her own aciaimed off-Broadway hit. Tue-Sat 8pm, mars Sat & San 3.30pm, ends 6 Mar, £12-£13.

ngel/Highbury & Islington.

ing, Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Sat 4.15pm, ends 27 Feb, £8-£13,

concs available. Kilburn High Road. NW6 (0171-328 1000) & Kilburn,

THEATRE

COUNTRYWIDE

THEATR BRYCHEINIOG Talking Heads Three female monologues

from Alan Bennett. Tonight 7.30pm. £7.50-£8.50. concs £5.50-£6.50

THEATRE ROYAL Blues Brother

9pm, mats Thur 2,30pm, Sat Spm.

ends 6 Mar, £3-£19, concs available

Canal Wharf (01874-611622)

4404) Angel.

£5. concs £4.

● WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. rest of the original broadway mi-Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987) & Lek So/Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm. £18.50-£35. 160 mins.

O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aktwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 836 2428) & Holbom. on-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK SU-File Woman in Black Su-san Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street. WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444| & Covent Gar-der/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, 13) 3pm. 17) 4pm, £8.50-£23.50.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVOI

rside (01789-295623)

Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916) VESTCLIFF-ON-SEA TRICKLE THEATRE ...And the Brother, Too Earnon Morrissey in a piece based on Flann O'Brien's writ-

> Women on the Verge of HRT Two fortysomething women discuss their situation in life. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends able London Road (01702-342564)

Soul Sisters Ruby Turner stars in this feelgood soul musical. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Fri. 8pm, Sat

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

SHAKESPEARE ON SCREEN is usually best left alone. How many of you found it necessary to sit through the entire four and a half hours of Kenneth Branagh's Hamlet? There are outstanding exceptions - Ian McKellen's Richard III and Romeo + Juliet by Baz Luhrmann but, Shakespeare in Love notwithstanding, the Bard is best on stage. Which brings us to Rufus Sewell (right). Best known for looming out of the screen at a cinema near you, he'll soon be using his considerable stage experience to maximum effect in a new production of Macbeth. Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (0171**-494** 5**040**) opens 3 Mar

Last Call

JONATHAN RICHMAN will be singing about unusual subjects such as "I Was Dancing in the Lesbian Bar", when he plays a few dates at the Jazz Café this week. The maverick singer/songwriter was last seen dressed as B minstrel in the Hollywood farce, There's Something About Mary. Now back to doing what he does best, Richman is promoting I'm So Confused, his 14th solo album. Known to be fond of ad-lib, these live shows promise to be as full of surprises as his song titles. Jazz Café, London NW1 (0171-916 6060) tonight to 19 Feb



EXHIBITIONS ORCHARD THEATRE Pirates of Penzance Paul Nicholas stars in this swash-buckling reworking of the Gilbert and Sullivan classic. Tue-Sat

BRUTON
BRUTON GALLERY Forming the
Figure Including works by Rodin and
Henry Moore. Mon-Fri 1 0am-1 pm &
2 pm-5 pm, ends 20 Mar, free. Stockwell House, Bruton High Street
(01749-812205) 7.45pm, mat Wed 2pm, ends 20 Feb. £16.50-£24.50, concs available ne Gardens (01322-220000) EYE THEATRE Affairs in a Tent Ay-

ckbourn romp involving an alcoholic beadmaster, his neurotic wife, their cleaner and a randy caretaker. Tue-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm, ends 27 Feb. £5.95-£10.95, concs available Broad Street (01 379-870519)

MILL STUDIO, YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE What Maisle Knew Adaptation of Henry James's novel about an 1880s tug-of-love battle. 17-20 Feb, 8pm. £9, concs available Mill-brook (01483-440000) YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Cleo.

Camping. Emmanuelle and Dick Terry Johnson's new play looks at the Carry On actors. Tue-Thur 7.45pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, mat Thur 2.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £10-£21.50, concs available Millbrook (01483-440000) MALVERN FESTIVAL THEATRE Joseph and the Amazing Techni-color Dreamcoat Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical version of the Bible story. Mon-Thur 2.30pm & 7.30pm, Fri-Sat, 5pm & 8pm, ends 20 Feb. £14-£21.50, concs available Grange Road (01684-892277)

NEWBURY WATERMILL THEATRE More Talking Heads Janet Brown, Patricia England and Sophie Lawrence bring Alan Bennett's superb monologues to life, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 13 Mar. £6-£16.50 Bagnor (01635-46044)

NORTHAMPTON ROYAL THEATRE Dombey and Son Michael Napier Brown's adap-tation of Dickens' novel. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thur 2.30pm, Sat Spm, ends 6 Mar. £4-£14,50 Guildhall Road [01604-632 533)

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Proposal Neil Simon's comedy about an extended family reunion. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, mar Thur 2.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £8-£19.50, concs available Beaumont Street (01865-798600)

PEGASUS THEATRE Sell Out Frantic Assembly's latest multi-media performance. Tonight 8pm. £6, concs £4 Magdalen Road (01865-722851) POOLE ARTS CENTRE The Com-

plete Works of William Shake peare (Abridged) Re Shakespeare Company fast-forwards through 37 plays. 15-18 Feb. 7.45pm, mat today 2.30pm, £7.50-£11.50 Kingland Road (01202-

THE MILL AT SONNENG Two Doze Red Roses Comic lave story set in romantic Rome. Tue-Sat 8.15pm. mat Sat 2.15pm, ends 20 Feb. £21.95-£32.95 Including dinner

NUFFIELD THEAIRE Earth and Sky Thriller about a librarian who thinks she knows her boyfriend well - until there is a murder and his murky past is revealed. Sam Janus stars. Mon-Thur 7.30pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, ends 27 Feb. E5.95-£12.50, concs available

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the Ci Lewis Namia classic. 16-18 Feb 7.15pm. ends 27 Feb. £5-£30 Wa-

SWAN THEATRE Troilus and Cressida Shakespeare's depiction of the burnan spirit undermined by bloody warfare. Tonight 7.30pm, mat 18 Feb, 1.30pm, ends 20 Feb, £5-£30

WYVERN THEATRE On the Razzi Tom Stoppard's farce is set in 1850s Vienna. Tonight 7.30pm. E8.50-£10.50, concs available Theatre Square (01793-524481)

CLIFFS PAVILION Girls' Night Out In Ibiza Lads and lasses in a steam ing irenzy, Ibiza style. 15-18 Feb. 8pm. 19 & 20 Feb. 6pm & 9pm. £8.50-£16.50 Station Road (01702-

NEW VICTORIA THEATRE Boogle Nights Shane Richie stars in a new 1970s musical. 15-18 Feb. 8pm. 19 Feb. 5.30pm & 8.30pm, 20 Feb, 5pm & 8pm. £7-£18.50 Peacocks Arts & Entertainments Centre (01483-761144)

OCTAGON THEATRE South Pacif to Rodgers and Hammerstein's hit musical about love and war on a hish tropical island. 16-20 Feb. 7.30pm. £12.50-£17.50, concs at Hendford (01935-422884)

CLASSICAL

CAMBRIDGE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM Picasso and Matisse Prints, drawings, and ceramics from the museum's col-

lection. Ends 11 Apr.
Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary American Prints Early etchings of the East Coast. lithographs, woodcuts and screenprints. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2,15pm-5pm, ends 2 May, free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900)

LONDON CAMDEN ARTS CENTRE Double Games: Sophle Calle Comprehen-sive retrospective of Calle's work, includes a new work made with novelist Paul Auster, Tue-Thur 11am-7pm. Fri-Sun 11am-5,30pm, ends 28 Mar, free. Arkwright Road, NW3 (0171-435 2643/5224) & Finchley

DESIGN MUSEUM Mini: 40 Years of a Design Icon Mini's designed by celebrities mark the 40th anniversary of the vehicle, Ends 9 May. of the venicle, Erics 9 May.

Modern Britain 1927-1939 A study
on the important period after the
Great War including the work of
Francis Bacon, Paul Nash and Barbara Hepworth, Mon-Sun 11.30am-6pm, ends 18 Jul. E5.25, concs £4 (to museum), Shad Thames, SE1 (0171-378 6055) & Tower Hill/DLR:

HAYWARD GALLERY Patrick Caulfield More than 50 colourful paintings by the leading British artist. Mon, Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Tue & Wed 10am-8pm, ends 11 Apr, £6. concs £4, family £12. Belvedere Road, £51 (0171-960 Belvedere Roso, SE1 4242) BR/O Waterloo. NATIONAL GALLERY In the Light

of Fra Angelico: Zanobi Strozzi Study exhibition exploring the paint-ings of the 15th-century artist. Ends Portraits by Ingres Major exhibition of paintings and drawings by the cel-ebrated 19th-century French artist. Mon & Tue, Thur-Sun 10am-6pm. Wed 10am-10pm, ends 25 Apr. £6,

concs £4, Wed £4 7pm-10pm. Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-747 2885) ➡ Charing Cross, Leicester ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Monet in the 20th Century Eighty paintings made in the 26 years after 1900. Mon-Thur, Sun 9am-6pm, Fri & Sat 9am-10pm, ends 18 Apr. £9, concs £6, child (12-18) £3, child (8-11) £1.50. Surlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-300 8000/cc 413 1717) & Green Park/P

TATE GALLERY In Celebration: The Art of the Country House Paintings and sculpture, including work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Holbein. Ends 28 Feb Art Now 17: Thomas Dem Tunnel Looped film of travel in a tun nel explores urban life. Ends 25 Apr Works on Paper and Paintings: Francis Bacon Paintings and draw-ings previously kept secret. Opens 16 Feb. Mon-Sun 10am-5.40pm, ends

OKFORD ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM Chinese Silks Brightly coloured 18th and 19th-century hangings. Ends 28 Feb. Nineteenth Century French Draw-ings Recent acquisitions alongside familiar major drawings. Ends 28

The Painterly Brush Oil sketches ng from the 16th to the early 20th century. Tue-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm, ends 21 Mar, free. Bo mont Street (01865-278000)

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART Jan Casebere New works by the American photographer. Somewhere Else: Willie Doherty New video installation. Tue-Sun 11am-6pm (Thur to 9pm), ends 4 Apr. £2.50 (free Wed morn & Thur eve), concs £1.50, child free. Pem-

Allotment: Kate Malone Innovative ceramics. Mon-Sat 10am-Spm, Sun Park Road (01824-704774/703992) ST IVES TATE GALLERY English Roots: Erk Cameron Thousands of

RUTHIN CRAFT CENTRE The

layers of paint surrounding org Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceram-ics from the second half of the century and a selection of contemporary Cuolt Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture linking St Ives with Montserrat in the West Indies.

the artist's birthplace. Mon-5at

11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226) GLYNN VIVIAN ART GALLERY Venice Through Canaletto's Eves Twenty-three paintings and drawings by the Venetian artist. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, ends 14 Mar, free, Alexandra Road (01792-651738/655006)

BRISTOL COLSTON HALL Sofia Philhar-monic/Tabalov Schumann's Piano Concerto with Berlioz' Symphonie Funiostique. Tonight 7.30pm. £9.60-£21.60. Colston Street (0117-922 3686/cc 927 3683) 686/cc 922 3683)

LONDON ST JOHN'S, SMITH SOUARE Manuel Viller Piano recital of Beethoven, Liszt and Ravel, Tonight 7.30pm, £6-£12. Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061)

WIGMORE HALL The King's Consort/King Sacred music by Herry Purcell, Tonight 7.30pm, £8-£14. Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) & Bond Street/Oxford Circus,

OPERA

LONDON LONDON COLISEUM Parsifal Eng-lish National Opera with a new stag-ing of Wagner's final work directed by Nikolaus Lehnhoff, Tonight 5pm. Square/Charing Cross.

DANCE

READING THE HEXAGON Tango Pasión Sen suous Argentinian dance musical. Tonight 6pm & 9pm. £15-£22.50. Queens Walk (0118-960 6060)

SAOLER'S WELLS AT THE PEA-COCK THEATRE PACO Peña Flamenco Presents La Musa Gitana World class flamenco dance, song and guitar. Tue-Sat 8pm. mat Sat, Sun 3pm, ends 7 Mar. £7.50-£27.50.

Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) & Holborn/Temple. PLACE THEATRE Spring Loaded: Jeremy James & Company The sassy ex Rambert dancer draws eavily on clubs and street life with his new work, Parts and The Day I Stopped. Tonight, phone for details. Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031)

LITERATURE

BRIGHTON THE BRIGHTON ROCK CREATIVE WRITERS Local writers' meeting Bring along your own work to share or just come along to listen. Caxton Arms North Gardens (01273-207762) Wed 8.30pm, free.

LONDON BERNICE RUBENS: LITERATURE EVENT The Booker Prize-winner reads from her new novel, I, Dreyfus, published this month. Croydon Clocktower, Breithwaite Hall Katharine Street Croydon, Surrey (0181-253 1030) Tonight 7pm, £4,

IN STORE READING - IAN RANKIN: DEAD SOULS Meet the author event with refreshments: Waterstone's Bookstore William Baker House, Broad Street (01865-790212) Tonight 6.30pm, free by ticket in

COMEDY

CRAIG CHARLES AT THE JUNC-TION The star of Red Dwarf and Robot Wars. Tonight 8.30pm, Clifton Road (01223-511511) £11.50.

AL MURRAY THE PUB LAND-LORD - LATE LOOKIN '99 AT MER-LIN THEATRE The triple Pertier nominee pours forth. Tonight 7.4Spm, Bath Road (01373-465949) £8, concs £6.50.

ED BYRNE AT THE TALK OF LON-DON Whimsical brand of humour from the Perrier Award nominee. Tonight 8pm, Parker Street, off Drury Lane, WC2 (0171-387 2414)

CLUBS

GOGGLEZ CLUB AT THE TAVERN CLUB Launch of Stompsphunk fea-turing Da: Void and D.T plus resident. gogglez DJs. Tonight 10pm-2am, £1. Castle Square, Lower North Street (01273-325684)

NU PHUNK AT THE VIBE BAR Mullethead and Danny Doyle, plus Ed-die Piller, Chartie Dark and friends. Tonight 7pm-12mldnight, Brick Lane, E1 6 (0171-247 1231) O Aldgate East, free.

LOVE BITE AT THE ANNEXE Gay indle night starring Simon Hobart. Tonight 10.30pm-3.30am, Dean Street, WT (0171-287 9608) & Tottenham Court Road, £4, mems £3.

EVENTS

4

BEDFORD IN THE LIMELIGHT: NORTH BEDS THROUGH THE MAGK LANTERN Fascinating exhibition based on Bed-ford's extensive magic lantern archive, particularly the work of pi-oneer Walter Henman. Bedford Museum Castle Lane (01234-353323) Tue-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm,

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ART AND ANIMATION Week long celebration of the relationship bebyeen art and animation, with screenings of contemporary and classic animation, debates and special appearances by major animators. ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) O Charing Cross, Ends 18 Feb.

phone for details.

CROMWELL: WARTS AND ALL EXHIBITION The museum's collection of Cromwell memorabilia, the largest in the country, explores the controversy still surrounding this complex and puzzling man. Museum complex and puzzung man, wuseum Of London London Wall EC2 (0171-600 3699) & Barblcan/St. Paul's, Mon-5at 10 am -5.50 pm. 5 un 12 noon-5.50 pm, ends 28 Feb. £5. concs/child £3, family £12 (to museum), group concs, tickets valid for the whole year,

MUSIC

6):

ABERYSTWYTH THE POPES Shape MacGowan's foot-on-the-floor roots-punkers play without him. Aberystwyth Arts Centre Penglais (01970-623232) Tonight 9pm, £5.95, concs £4.95.

CHELWSFORD FUNGUS Infectiously chaotic Swedish pop-metal band. The Y-Club Victoria Road (01245-441016) Tonight

JONATHAN RICHMAN The revi

talised new wave pioneer who ap-peared in the film There's Something

About Mary, returns to promote his-new album. Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 [0171-916 6060) + Camden 1. Tonight 8pm, £10. COLDCUT, MASONNA, CLINIC John Peel's moothly sessions improve with this eclectic line-up topped by pioneering 1980s digi-dance duo, a Japanese noisemonger and some surgical pop avant-gardistes. Queen

SE1 (0171-960 4242) BRA Wa-MILTON KEYNES LINDISFARNE Terminally popular British folk-rock stalwarts. The Stables Stockwell Lane, Wavendon (01908-583928) Tonight 8pm,

Flizabeth Hall South Bank Centre

£10.50-£17.50. WESTON-SUPER-MARE DENNIS LOCORRIERE Solo tour for the former Dr Hook singer, Play-house Theatre High Screet (01934-645544) Tonight 8pm, phone for

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

MUSIC

LOZ SPEYER OUARTET Original material from artful contemporary trumpeter Jagz at the Station Station Hill (01344-622361) Tonight EASTLEIGH BENNY GREEN TRIO Vibrant US mainstream piano firebrand. Con-corde Gub Stoneham Lane (01703-

mems £10.50. STAN ROBINSON, DAMON BROWN Tenor and trumpet-led bop quartet. 606 Club Lots Road SW10 (0171-352 5953) & Fulham Broad-way/Earls Court. Tonight 9.30pm &

613989) Tonight 9pm. £12.50.

ALAN STUART OCTET Hornmen Don Weller and Willie Garnett join the regular little big band. Bull's Head Lonsdale Road SW13 (0181-876 5241) BR: Barnes Bridge. Tor

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MARTY GROSZ Veteran US guitarist leads allstar quintet. Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) & Tottenham Court REBECCA WHEATLEY Cabaret vo-

cals from Casualty star. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) & Hyde Park Corner. Yonight 9.15pm & 11.15pm, £18, adv £16. FLORA PURIM/AIRTO MOREIRA Legendary world fusioneers, support from trombonist Mark Nightingale, Roonle Scott's Frith Street W1

MARK LOCKHEART Adventures contemporary saxist and composer joins the house section. Vorcex Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) 8R: Stoke New-ington. Tonight 9pm, £6, concs £4.

(0171-439 0747) O Leicester

£4 (Mon-Thur): £20, mems £8 (Fri-

quare. Tonight 9.30pm, £15, mems

WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM)

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6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Mark Goodier. 12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Raddiffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode, 10.10 Peel Sessions Live. 12.00 Blue Jam. 1.00 Gilles Peterson. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2. (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Richard Littlejohn. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Nick Barraclough. 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 The Andy Peobles Soul Show. 10.00 Top of the Pops 2 on 2 10.30 Richard Allinson, 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex

RADIO 3 (902-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. See Pick of the Day. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Dvo-

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. A recital by Lynsey Marsh (clarinet) and Zoe Solomon (piano) live from the Adrian Boult Hall in Birmingham Conservatoire. Saint-Saens: Sonata in E flat, Op 167. Berio; Lied. Stravinsky: Three Pieces. Brahms: Sonata in E flat, Op 120 No 2 2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Choral Evensong for Ash Wednesday. 5.00 in Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. A concert by two leading brass bands, the Williams Fairey Band and the Fodens (Courtois) Band. It was given last month to mark three anniversaries; the sixtieth birthday of composer John McCabe, the fiftieth birthday of Philip Willoy, and the centenary of the Foden Band from Sandbach, Cheshire. The first part of the concert is given by the Williams Fairey Band, musical director James Gowlay. McCabe; Salamander. Holst: A Moorside Suite, Wilby: Revelation (Symphony for Double Brass). See Pick of the Day. 8.20 Interval. Paul Allen talks to John McCabe and Philip Wilby about

their work for brass bands.

5.00 Cocoon: the Return (1988) (20966), 8.00 Problem Child (1990) (41291), 10.00

Magic In the Water (1995) (31514), 2200 Co-coon: the Return (1988) (25104), 4200 Prob-lem Child (1990) (8388), 6200 Problem Child 2 (1991) (48253), 7230 Barry Norman's

Film Night (5920), 8.00 Men in Black (1997)

(1990) (775307), **1.25** Cherokee Kid (1996) (570166), **3.00** Edie & Pen (1996) (595321).

4.40 - 6.00 Fernmes Patales (5835876).

7.00 Femmes Fatales (75746). 7.30 Action

Heroes (5559746). 8.15 Movie Megic (1453104). 9.00 Terror in the White House

(17185) 40.00 Blood and Wine (1997) (628630), 11.40 Postcards from the Edge

Problem Child 2 (1991) (84833), 12.00

SKY PREMIER

SKY MOVIEMAX

PICK OF THE DAY

MAN OF THE proletariat Karl Marx (right) is the subject of there's a new series, Lent Sound Stories (11am R3): Talks (8.45pm R4), in the first excerpts from Verdi's Nabucco of which the novelist AN Wilson and Schulhoff's The Communist discusses his loss of faith but Manifesto help to set the mood. residing affection for the Church. Performance on 3 (7.30pm R3) airs a concert recorded at the Royal Northern College of repeat of episode one of the Music's first Festival of Brass timely and promising antilast month: featured work is by Philip Wilby and John McCabe.

8.30 Concert, part 2. Fodens (Courtois) Band/Nicholas Childs Ireland:

Sketchbook McCabe: Cloudcatcher

9.15 Postscript. Peggy Reynolds un-

emotional impact of a favourite oper-

atic aria. Tonight, 'Malo' from Britten's 'The Turn of the Screw', his operatic

version of the Henry James ghost

story. Discussing the aria are actor

and once boy soprano David Hem-

mings, singers Joan Rodgers, direc-tors Jonathan Miller and David

Leveaux and conductor Wasfi Kani.

9.40 Schubert. Gesang der Geister uber den Wassern, D714. Monteverdi

Choir and string ensemble/John Eliot

10-00 Ensemble. When Ravel visit-

ed America in the 1920s, he was al-

ready a jazz enthusiast and an

admirer of Gershwin, who asked

Ravel for lessons. Bartok was also

much taken with jazz and wrote his

'Contrasts' for Benny Goodman, at

the same time working in a little trib-

Nicola Loud, Sam Haywood (piano).

ute to Ravel. Ravel; Violin Sonata.

Mather (plano), Bartok: Contrasts.

Robert Plane (clarinet), Lucy Gould

10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright

investigates the life and work of the

Henri Michaux. Though associated

a group, and he pursued his inter-

language of signs. Francis Bacon

ests in Chinese calligraphy and

with surrealism, he never adhered to

Taoist philosophy to develop his own

enigmatic French poet turned painter

Gershwin: Three Preludes, Zoe

(violin), Benjamin Frith (piano).

Gardiner.

Cornedy Overture. Wilby: Lowry

ravels the dramatic, musical and

To mark Ash Wednesday, Money talks later tonight in

Mammon (11.30pm R4FM), a

corporation satire. DOMINIC CAVENDISH

thought him better than Jackson Pollock at the 'flung ink' technique, and Allen Ginsberg is said to have hailed him a genius, yet Michaux remains virtually unknown in Britain. Now London's Whitechapel Gallery is hoping to bring him to a new audience.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Telemenn. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (924-946MHz FM) 6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Midweek. 9.45 Serial: Planet of the Blind. 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour. **1L00** NEWS; Murder, Magic and Medicine. 11.30 Tomorrow at the Same Time.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Board Game. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 235 Afternoon Play: Women on 3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Question

3.30 Science In the Attic. 3.45 This Sceptred liste. 4.00 NEWS; All in the Mind. 4.30 Thinking Allowed

5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Ballylenon. (R) 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 715 Front Row. Mark Lawson with arts reviews, interviews and debate. 7.45 The Cry of the Bittem. An envi-

ronmental drama by Tim Jackson.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

With Rachel Atkins, Ian Pepperell, Kelly Hunter and Sean Baker. Direc-tor Peter Leslie Wild (3/30). 8.00 NEWS; The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk and regulars Janet Daley, David Starkey, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook investigate the moral questions behind the week's 8.45 Lent Talks. See Pick of the

9.00 NEWS; Frontiers. Noise -Good Vibrations'. Peter Evans hears how adding more noise can improve

your quality of life.

9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversation.

10.00 The World Tonight. With Justin Webb. 10.45 Book at Bedtime (2/6). 11.15 MacFlintock's Palace. 11.30 Mammon, See Pick of the

12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: All Points 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 11.45 12.00 Parliamentary Postcards.

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW)

9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra.

7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Full coverage of all the night's action, including the Worthington Cup semifinal, second-leg clash between Leicester City and Sunderland, in the Premiership, Manchester United play Arsenal, and in the Scottish Premier League, Cettic play Kilmamock, Plus the National Lottery Draw. 10.00 Littlejohn. Football phone-in

with Richard Littlejohn: 0500 909693 1L00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson, Including a late news bnefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion.

1.00 Up Al Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM

(1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert: Tavemer: Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas. Talis Scholars/Peter Phillips. Elgar: The Light of Life. Judith Howarth (soprano), Arthur Davies (tenor), John Shirley-Quirk (baritone), Linda Finnie (narrator), London Symphony Chorus and Orchestra/Richard Hickox. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 2-00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark Forrest. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Pete & Geoff. 10.00 James Merritt, 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO**

(198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today, 1.30 Meridian (Live). 2.00 World Today. 2.30 Everywoman, 3.00 World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report, 3.45 Insight, 4.00 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

TALK RADIO 6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Justice with Jacobs. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 The SportZone. 7.00 Offside with Seb Coe. 8.00 James Whale. 12.00 - 6.00 lan Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS 1

THE GRAND Old Man of American fewer than five new title norms. chess. George Koltanowski, was born (Georges) in Antwerp way back on September 17 1903 and is still going strong.

The son of a diamond cutter, he didn't learn how to play chess until he was 14. Although he is a strong international player, he is best known for his blindfold feats, which included a 34-board simultaneous tournament in Edinburgh in 1937 then a world record in which he scored 24 wins and 10 draws in 13and-a-half hours. The mainstay of bis many exhibitions was a blindfolded knight's tour of the board in which he first memorised 64 differeot objects placed on the board by the audience,

An international tournament in his honour finished a week agn today at the Mechanics Institute in his home city of San Francisco. It was organised on the Scheveningen system, in which players from two teams each play every other member of the other - a particularly good way of offering title norm opportunities.

In this case "Team A", consisting of three grandmasters. Nick de Firmian, Roman Dzindzihashvili and Walter Browne, plus two international masters and four others faced "Team B"; four international masters and five others including the US women's champion, 15-yearold Irina Krush.

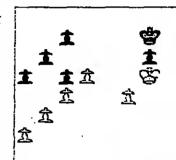
Although Team A was on average somewhat the higher rated, it was the underdogs who seized control and finally won by the handsome margin of 43-37.

And this international event also served its purpose splendidly by creating the impressive haul of no

For Team B, Rashid Ziatdinov (US), the overall top scorer with 7.9. made a grandmaster norm while Angelo Young (Pbilippines). Deen Hergott (Canada) and Irina Krush herself made IM norms. Meanwhile for Team A, Richard Lobo, an expatriate Englishman who has long made his home in States, also made the IM norm of 5.59 with eight

decisive games and a draw only in

the final round.



White: Nick De Firmian Black: Janathan Berry

This interesting ending occurred in the first round. De Firmian, the current US champion, had baid to squeeze hard against the Canadian Jonathan Berry but now won by force because his king was able to force its way to the b6 pawn.

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The game ended 63 a4 Kf7 64 f5 gxf5 65 Kxf5 Ke7 66 Kg6 Kd6 67 Kf6 Kd7 68 Kf7 Kd6 69 Ke8 c6 70 dxe6 Kxc6 71 Kd8 Kd6 72 Kc8 Kc6 73 Kb8

If instead 68 ... Kd8 69 Ke6 Kc8 70 d6 cxd6 71 Kxd6 Kb7 72 Kd7 Ka7 73 Kc7 Ka6 74 Kb8 wins. Later 71 ...Kb7 72 Kd7 would transpose to

Love all; dealer East

North

BRIDGE

SOUTH REALLY should have paid more attention to the fact that East had passed as dealer on this hand. Had be done so, be might well have found the winning play instead of (as be did) choosing the line of least resistance.

After a pass by East. South chose to open One Spade rather than One Club. This seemed to bave worked well when North raised to game and all passed. West led the ten of hearts against Four Spades and East started with three rounds of hearts. Declarer ruffed the third, drew trumps with the ace and king, and continued with dummy's singleton ten of clubs. When East played low, he went up with his king and this lost to West's ace.

This left West in the happy position of being able to exit safely with #J. Now there was only one dia-

mond discard to be taken in dummy, and eventually declarer fell back on the diamond finesse. This failed, and so did the contract.

It would bave been logical to place West with the ace of clubs. Suppose that, when the ten of clubs is not covered, declarer lets it run? West is able to win with his jack but is now end-played. A heart return

+KQ10764 CQ52 ♦Q 10 3 **+**10 West East **4**3 ♥10987 ♥AKJ4 0K7 086542 **♣**A 1976 **4**543 South **A2198** C63 OAJ9 **♣KQ82**

gives South a ruff and discard (while one of dummy's diamonds goes away) and then a ruffing finesse against West's ace of clubs allows the other losing diamond to be discarded, and any club that West chooses is equally ineffective.

What an important card South's eight of clubs would have proved! If the eight and the seven had been exchanged, Wesl would have had a safe exit with his nine, away from the ace, after winning with his jack. This again would have left declarer with only one diamond discard from the table.

(1997) (30185). **11.00** Pee-Wee's Big Adventure (1965) (14369). 1.00 Fernmes Fatales (74017). 1.30 Action Heroes (9268104). 2.15 Movie Magic (2306814). 3.00 Terror in the White House (1997) (46017). 5.00 Pee-Wee's Big Adventure (1985) (30524). 7.00 The Last Best Year (1990) (48794). 8.30 El the Shroud (6093949), 10.00 Dead Sea News Week in Review (9494). 9.00 Murder Scrolls - Urravelling the Mystery (5096036). 11.00 Classic Story of the SAS in My Mind (1997) (18814). 11.00 Fast Mon-ey (1995) (230524). 12.35 Dead Ahead (9561272). **12.00** UFO (6092234). **1.00** Treasure Hunters (8083532). **1.30** Wheel (1996) (323944). 2.10 The Grotesque (1995)

(582437), **4.00** Lambada - the Forbidden Dance (1990) (333960), **5.40 - 7.15** The SKY ONE Christmas List (1997) (15864925). 7.00 Count Duckula (80678). 7.30 The Chris Evens Breakfast Show (43949). 8.30 SKY CINEMA 4.00 Sherlock Holmes and the Scarlet Grimmy (53475), 9.00 Earthworm Jim Clear (1942) (4139456), **5.30** Hollywood Hall of Fame (3189291). **6.00** Furmy Face (1957) (44727). 9.30 Flash Gordon (88656). 10.00 Miracles and Other Wonders (65369). 11.00 (1859185). **6.00** The Lighthorsemen (1988) (1858630). **10.00** Nevada Smith (1965) Guityi (78833). 12.00 Jenny Jones (51982). 1.00 Mad about You (89949). 1.30 Jeop-(87260017). 12:10 Chel (1969) (5706876). ardy (8746), 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (36369), 3.00 Jenny Jones (83630), 4.00 Guilty! (9445), 5.00 Star Trek (5814), 6.00 1.50 The Rainbow (1989) (2721437). 3.45

FILMFOUR 6.00 The Lost World (1960) (98847920). 7.40 20th-Century Half of Fame (1798098). 8.00 Wolf (1994) (31485475). 10.05 Blow-Up (1960) (4068524). 12.00 Visions of Ught: the Art of Chemalography (8239789). 1.30 Riff Raff (1991) (1563654). 3.10 - 6.00 Mac (1992) (95243924).

Holiday Affair (1949) (83170050). 5.10 Close.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL 4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (3384833). 4.30 Walker's World (3380017). 5.00 Wheel Nuts (4430291). 5.30 Trea sure Humars (3371369). 6.00 Animal Doctor (3361982). 6.30 Secrets of the Deep (8199630), 7.30 The Elegant Solution (3381746). 8.00 Arthur C Clarke's Mysteri-Ous World (4436475). 8.30 Creetures Fanlastic (44)5982), 9.00 Mysterious Man of

PICK OF THE DAY

still be reeling from the events of last Saturday when Arsene Wenger's amazing act of sportsmanship helped to at least partially redeem football's oftentattered image. But they must put all that behind them as they focus on tonight's match, Manchester United vs Arsenal (7pm Sky Sports 1). A victory for the visitors, for whom Petit and Bergkamp are suspended, against the Premiership leaders

Guityl (9746), 6.30 Friends (9758), 7.00

The Simpsons (6543). 7.30 The Simpsons (9982). 8.00 Mortal Kombat (20659). 9.00

The X Files (33123). 10.00 Naked in West-minster (79162). 11.00 Priends (44974).

(27050). 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (7451654).

7.00 Sky Sports Centre (3245524). 735

10.00 European Tour Golf Magazine

World Wreating (383833), 8.15 You're on Sky Sports (2134814), 9.00 Racing News (39494), 9.30 Aerobics - Oz Style (40098).

(77630). **10.30** European Tour Golf (997543). **1.30** Festrax (43185). **2.00** Inside

Scottish Football (85659). 3.00 Spanish Football (60611). 5.00 Wrestling (7814). 6.00 Sports Centre (1746). 6.30 Unbeliev-

SKY SPORTS 1

THE ARSENAL players may could throw the title race wide open again. However, Arsenal's renowned defence will have to be at its best to hold the in-form United strikers. Biography (9pm History

Channel) recounts the life of Rasputin (right), the Siberian Eastern Orthodox mystic, who advised Tsarina Alexandra. He was reported to have got up to such misdeeds that a group of nobles bumped him off. JAMES RAMPTON



able Sports (2098). 7.00 Football Special Manchester United vs Arsenal (95901366). See Pick of the Day. 10.45 Sky Sports Centre (122630), 11.00 You're on Sky Sports (617388), 11.45 Sky Sports Centre 242253). 12.00 Ford Football Special Manchester United vs Arsenal (72673). 1.30 Worthington Cup Football Sunderland vs Leicester (35876). 3.00 You're on Sky

Sports (3079708). 3.45 Sky Sports Centre (14432760), 4.00 Close. SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (5649235), 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (644935), 7.45 Racing News (3331291), 8.15 Fastrax (6107017), 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (8493253), 9.00 Fish TV (5064907), 6.30 Fish TV (3717340). 10.00 Inside Scottish Football (2965164). 11.00 Spanish Football (1674456). 1.00 Powerboat and Jet Sport World (6099776). 1.30 Totalsport (3727727), 2.00 Snooker (1248833), 5.00 Urbelievable Sports (8094727), 5.30 Fastrax (9062123), 6.00 Watersports World (3739475), 7.00 Wor-

European Tour Golf (53420185). 1.45 Unicelievable Sports (2050302). 235 Sky Sports Centre (13547012). 2-30 Close(). SICY SPORTS 3 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shotgun (87892369). 1.00 Fish TV The Ultimete Fishing Show (90676611). 1.30 Fish TV Fishing Tales (87805833), 2,00 Superbouts Mencini vs Arguello (50837217), 3,00 The Entertainers (87948036), 3,30 Powerboet

thington Cup Football (61569307). 10.45

and Jet Sport World (87780291). 4.00 V-Max (87776096) 4.30 Totalsport (87765882) 5.00 European Tour Golf (87839388) 6.00 Fish TV Fishing Taxas (87786475) 6.30 Fish TV Ultimate Fishing Show (87777727), 7.00 Snocker (14746104). 10.00 Watersports World (92970253). 1L00-1L30 Futbol Mundial (17274678). EUROSPORT

7,30 Footbell: Eurogoals (81123). 9,00 Biethion (55630). 10,30 Bobsleigh (84123). 11.30 Football European Championship Legends (3645), 12.30 Golf US PGA Your Buick Open (55611), 1.30 Tennis (38253)
 2.00 Tennis (45982), 4.00 Swimming 7.00 Four-Wheel Drive (3611), 7.30 Trial (30077) 9.00 Sumo (46611) 10.00 Darts (56096) 11.00 Start Your Engines (36494) 12.00 Car on Ice (62437) 12.30 Close. UK GOLD

7.00 Crossroads (9554962), 7.30 Neighbours (4791969), 7.55 EastEnders (5813307), 8.30 The Bill (8889920), 9.00 The Bill (8870272), 9.30 When the Boat Comes in (7969889). 10.30 Rhoda (3876456), 11.00 Dallas (4859659), 11.55 Neighbours (78588982), 12.25 EastEnder Neighbours (78 (7455833), 1.00 Julet Bravo (5963938). 2.00 Dallas (5590494) 2.55 The Bill (5002611) 3.25 The Bill (9495901) 3.55 EastEnders (8671562). 4.30 Rhoda (3382475), 5,00 All Creatures Great and Small (4428456), 6.00 Dynasty (9363794) 7.00 2point4 Children (3930036), 7.40

(10013104), 11.45 The Bil (9037765), 12.15 The BN (7902944), 12.45 The Black Adder (1358789). 1.25 French and Saunders 955586). **1.55** Spender (1528383). 2.45 7.0 Shopping with Screenshop (54444296). 6.00 Tiny and Crew (37678307). 6.20 Johnson and Friends (83585678). 6.30 Greedysaurus and the Gang (12665765). 6.40 Tiny Tales (84006920). 6.45 Philbert

Dad's Army (7154678), 8.20 The Brittas

Empire (6632185), 9.00 Men Behaving Bedly (8341475), 9.40 Men Behaving Badly

(2524369), 10.20 Only Fools and Horses

the Frog (84005291), 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts (84083456). 7.00 Practical Parenting (5752456). 7.05 Professor Bubble 5340). **7.30** Calilou (1734920). **7.3**5 Bud Alert (7530253), 7.55 Practical Parenting (4078272), 8.00 Barney and Friends (4093949), 8.25 Babaloos (1508369), 8.30 Callou (8879185), 8.35 Tiny and Crew (5135291). 8.50 Practical Parenting (7475630). 9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (5813833). 9.30 Roseanne Show · High-lights (3160272). 10.00 Jerry Springer **11.40** Brookside (68110307), 12:10 Animal cue (22363659). 12.40 Rescue 911 (96523096), 1.10 Special Babies (50697825), 1.40 Beyond Belief (66217611). 2.10 LA Law (9312185), 3.10 Living Room (2405727), 4.00 Michael Cole (8416185). 4.50 Rolonds (1883217). 5.40 Ready, Steedy, Cook (5000562). 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show (3754307). 2.05 Rescue 911 (2177123), 7.35 Animal Rescue (249096). 8.10 Maury Povich (46506th). 9.00 Nothing Lasts Forever (1855543). 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (7718524), 12.00 Close.

9.00 The Asphalt Jungle (1950) (21206659), 11.35 Cool Breeze (1972) (64475036), 1.15 Arturo's Island (1963) (73162128), 3.00 The Asphalt Jungle (1950) (38284334). 5.00

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Jenny (6185), 7.30 Grace under Fire (9524), 6.00 Ellen (5833), 8.30 Newsradio (4340). 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (2490f), 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? (55820), 10.00 Frasier (18901), 10.30 Cheers (34949), 11.00 Seinleid (36746) 11.30 The Larry Senders Show (71456). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (31128). 1.00 Taxi (94760), 1.30 The Critic (48079), 2.00 Dr Katz (18499), 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (20234), 3.00 Nightstand (81296). 3.30-4.00 Abbott & Costello (11586).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Jerry Springer Show (5638814). 3.20 HTV News (5202479). 5.10 A Country Practice (9076543), 6.00 Home and Away (848497). 6.25 Wales Toright (75388). 10.30 HTV News (947901). 11.40 Renegade (808307). 12.40 Film: Descending Angel (167215). 2.25 Master Class (7665963). 2.85 Judge Judy (1212995). 3.25 Tinths (915031). 4.25 The Malding of Elizabeth (39305876). 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (89716760). 6.00 Coronation Street (48012).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 1.00 Next
Stop... (49307), 6.25 HTV West Weather
(120185). 6.30 The West Tonight (614).

BBC1 N IRELAND BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsine 5.30 (746). 11.30 The Parited Landscape (792543). 11.50 Black and White (56208). 12.25 Robbie Williams for One Night Only (7251988). 1.25 Joins BBC News 24 (56124079). BBC1 SCOTLAND

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 London except 12.30
Dotaman (36600678). 12.45 Dochaidh
Mor (Oakey Doke) (26179475). 6.00
News (494). 6.30 Reporting Scotland:
Weather (246). 10.15 Chewin' the Fat
(22032), 10.45 Ex-S (291253). 1115 Black and White (894475). 11.50 Robbie Williams - for One Night Only (793307). 12.40 Film: Moving Target (704895). 2.45 Johns BBC News 24 (18539505).

BBC1 WALES As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales Today (746). 10.15 The State (202082). 10.45 Match of the Day (292982), 10.45 Masck and White (754088), 11.40 Back and White (571746), 12.45 Robbie Williams - for One Night Only (6008532), 1.05 Film: The Idolmsker (378893), 3.00 Joins BBC News 24 (6373654).

As Cartton except: 12.20 Angla News and Weather (8385543). LOD ANGLIA

Shortland Street (9753746). 1.35 Home and Away (25653253). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5638814). 3.20 Anglia News and Weather (520279). 6.00 Anglia News [562). 6.30 Whipenade (814). 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (947901). 11.40 in Suspicious Circumstances (809307). 12.40 Film: Description Angel (167215). 2.25 Master stances (809307). 12.40 Film: De-scending Angel (167215). 2.25 Master Class (7665963). 2.55 Judge Judy (122895). 3.25 Tisina (915031). 4.25 The Making of Elizabeth (39305876). 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (88715760). 5.00 Coronation Street (46012).

CENTRAL CENTHAL
As Cartton except: 12.20 Central
News and Weather (8385543). 1.00
Echo Point (49307). 3.20 Central News
(5202479). 5.10 Shortland Street
(9076543). 6.00 Home and Away
(848497). 6.25 Central News and
Weather (756388. 10.30 Central News (848497). 5-25 Central News (848497). 5-25 Central News and Weather (547901). 11.40 Central Sports Special (361307). 4.20 Jobinder (4602079). 5-20 Asian Bye (7284944).

As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (11917982), 12.45 Meridian New and Weather (7986611), 1.00 Shortland Street (9753746), 1.35 Home and Away Street (9753746). 1.35 Home and Away (25853253). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5838814). 3.20 Meridian News and Weather (5202479). 5.10 Home and Away (9076543). 5.37 Three Minutes (705765). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (562). 6.30 Country Vets (814). 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (947901). 11.40 Anatomy of Dispater (809307). 12.40 Film: Descending Angel (167215). 2.25 HTV WALES HTV WALES
As Cariton except: 10.30 This
Moming (1317982). 12.15 HTV News
(798661). 1.00 Shortland Street (49307).
1.30 Home and Away (27524). 2.00 The

Master Class (7665963), 2-55 Judge Judy (1212895), 3-25 Trisha (9115091), 4-25 The Making of Elizabeth (39305876), 4-50 TTV Nightscreen (88716760). 5.00 Freescreen (46012). WESTCOUNTRY

As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (13/7982), 12.15 Westcountry News (7986611), 12.27 Eurninations News (7986611). 12.27 Burnhadons (838362). 1.00 Emmerdale (49307). 3.20 Westcountry News (5202479). 6.00 Westcountry Live (36272). 10.30 Westcountry News (947901). 11.40 Kyrle Intimate and Live (809307). 12.40 Film: Descending Angel (167215). 2.25 Master Class (7665963). 2.55 Judge Judy (1212995). 3.25 Trisha (9115031). 4.25 The Making of Etizabeth (39305676). 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (88716760). 5.00 Coronation Street (46012).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 12.20 Calendar
News and Weather (8385543). 1.00
Honte and Away (3248545). 1.25 The
Jerry Springer Show (4840069). 2.90
Ermierdale (7459388). 3.20 Calendar
News Headlines (520479). 5.40 News;
Weather (614524). 5.55 Calendar
(40775). 6.30 Tonight (814). 10.30 Calendar News; Weather (947901). 11.40 YORKSHIRE

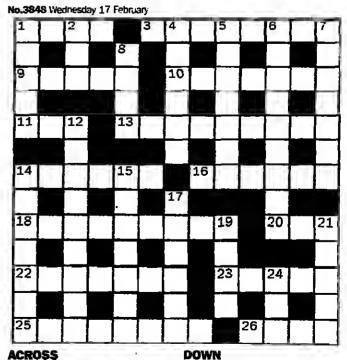
the state of the s

Roar (361307). 4.20 Jobfinder (6457483). TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North East News and Weather (8394291). 12.25 Joblink (8393562). 3.20 North Tast News and Weather (5202479), 5.55
North East Weather (785901), 6.00
North East Tonight (36272), 10.30 North
East News and Weather (947901), 11.40
The North East Match Worthington Cup Semi-Final (361307).

As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Be-witched (29376630), 12.30 Sesame Street (38927107), 1.00 Planed Plant (34987123), 1.30 The Three Stooges (2750901), 1.50 Film: The Long Memo-ry* (67909271), 4.30 Dishes (81927920), 5.00 Planed Plant (64308611), 5.30 Countdown (81918272), 6.00 Newyddion (5420494), 6.10 Heno (16096901), 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (64328475), 7.30 Newyd-dion (61935949), 8.00 Filemio (64337123), 8.30 Pacio (64316630), 10.00 Brookside (60019340), 10.35 Sex and the City (56432678), 11.05 Euro-tresh (67266582), 11.35 Mark Thomas Comedy Product (63378833), 12.05 The Spying Game (32723470), 12.40 Foot-ball Italia (30946586), 4.10 Close. As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Be-

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Flat, thin, circular structure Seized 18) 9 Intrigue (5)

10 Sculptor (7) 11 Playing card (3) 13 Jaunt (9) 14 Creenv-crawly (6)

16 Light (6) 18 Trite (9) 20 Attention (3) 22 Substance involved in chemi-

cal process (7) 23 Skewered meat (5) 25 Beaten (8) 26 Wish for (4)

17 Shrub (6) 19 Nobleman (4) 21 Disprove (5) 24 Item of underwear (3) Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Wimple, 4 Donne (Wimbledon), 8 Eanui, 9 Oversee, 10 Caribon, 11 Flee, 12 Par. 14 Bloc, 15 Espy, 15 Kid, 21 Ugil, 23 Epitome, 25 Potherb, 26 Taint, 27 Reeve, 28 Grieve, DOWN: 1 Whence, 2 Mongrel, 3 Laid-buck, 4 Deed, 5 Nasal, 6 Eleven, 7 Top op. 13 Register, 16 Promise, 17 Jumper, 19 Derby, 20 Kenle, 22 Lathe, 34 Here.

Weep (3)

lris (4)

15 Own up (7)

Excessively (6)

Look at again (2-7) Recess for meals (7)

12 Comfortable seat (4.5)

14 Receive as bequest (7)

Enduring (7)

Russian country house (5)

HANKS

BBC

0 9uelnass 9roakfaet (919 9.00 Kliroy (S) (T) (8950949 (S) (T) (4259524). 10.85 Nev (T) (6321388). 11.00 Chenge Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (ws (T) (11524). /anssee Show

Childran's 9BC: Playdeye (R) (S) (6989678). Little Monetere (S) (2942982). 3.50 ChuckleVis (T) (590494). 4.10 See it Saw it (S) (T) (319138 The Wild House (S) (T) (5744543). 5.00 Newsn (T) (2284911). 5.10 Blue Peter (S) (T) (6938253)

5.35 Naighbours. Madge comes to Portle's reecue.
The quelify of mercy is not streined, end ell thet (S)
(T) (946562).

90.9

9.00 IIIM Beverly Hills Cop III (John Lands 1983 US).
I never thought much of the original Beverly Hills Cop, but

9.00 News Regionel News Waather (T) (1302).

9.30 EIIM Beverly Hills Cop III (John Lands 1983 US).

Just when ITV is ditching the idee of breaking up movies with the news, 89C1 gets in on the ect. Anyhow, more of Eddle Murphy's robotic profentiles and hee-haw, self-congretulatory leughter (5) (1) (892901).

10.15 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam introducee action from the Premiership, including Menchester United ve Arsenal, Chelasa vs Bleckburn end Everton ve Middlesbrough (S) (405185).

11.10 Stack and White. Our undercover investigators one black, the other white - test the Leads job merket for racism (S) (T) (895104).

CHOIDE The Idolmsker (Teylor Hackford 1980 US). Superior blopic ebout the early days of rock. See Film of the Day, below (Then Weether) (275973). To 2.30em.

6.30 Regional News. And weether (T) (749)

7.00 Airport. Heelthrow Airport docu-soep, and there's chaos in the VIP suite as 40 different diplometic parties errive for the Boenien pesce telks (R) (S) (T) (7253).

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Looking at e robot that designed to fight chemical fires. Plus, developm the world of in-vitro fertilisetion (S) (T) (830).

millions eround Thie chronically returning to fan into freefall, is a

lia Wilfierns - for One Night Only. On the night singer's expected success at the Brit Awards (see lere's enother chance to see the documentery about mer lake That bad boy made good (R) (S) (786494).

February or March

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THE 1995 BRIT AWARDS (6pm ITV) Some viewers may be on the edge of their seale to find out who is going to win these gongs, but of more interest to most people are the hi-jinks that are going to make it into the cext day's newspapers. Lest year, of course, it was Danbert Nobacon from Chumbswamba throwing water over John Prescott – and before that Jarvis Cocker's spirited intervention in Michael Jackson's insitation of Christ. This year's event includes performances from the MUSIC SHOW OF THE DAY

BBC2

OO Children's 9BC: Teles of the Tooth Felide (3017/058), 7.05 Teletubbise (5) (6928340), 7 (9073253), 7.50 The Reelly Wild Show (5) (9073253), 7.50 The Reelly Wild Show (5) (9073253), 7.50 The Reelly Wild Show (5) (9073253), 9.45 Folice of the Tooth Felid (5) (3994307), 9.55 Telee of the Tooth Felid (5) (3994307), 9.55 Telee of the Tooth Felid (5) (3994307), 9.25 The Art (5) (469 Words end Pictures (5) (1785633), 10.00 Teleform (5) (91272), 10.30 Numbertime (5) (278272 Cets' Eyes (5) (2770582), 11.00 Around Sc (1284433), 11.20 The Geography Program (8071959), 11.40 Science in Acilion (5) (7) (12.00 Spanish Magazins (5) (9451920), 12. Berlin (5) (7999185), 12.30 Working Lunch Brum (R) (94030765), 1.10 The Trevel Hour (9794727), 2.10 Sporting Greets (5) (918400 News; Regional News; Weether (T) (3102914 Match of Their Dsy (5) (1) (2659456), 3.29 Regional News; Weather (T) (7492054), 3.31 Colour (5) (524), 4.00 Keye (5) (9060949), 518edy, Cook (5) (1) (6653038), 4.95 Eethe (3307017), 9.30 Today's fie Dey (5) (123).

). 3.30 Awesh with 949). 4.25 Reedy. Eether (R) (S) (T) 12.19 Hello eus ch (31727) 1.00 ur (R) (S) 10036), 2.40 914), 2.45

Star Trek: The Next Genaration. Wesley Crusher end his classmates at Starfied Academy ere involved in a cover-up when a cadet is killed (R) (S) (T) (481562).

5.40 Buffy the Vampire 9layer. Imported US series ebout the adventuree of a 15-yeer-old girl who fighle to; rid the world of experneturel evil. Buffy discovers Angel's horrifying secret (S) (T) (633098).

5.00 7.30 **Sophie Grigeon's Herbs.** Not exactly a new set its already been shown on deylime TV, but it's a go nonethelees. Grigson goes into the culinary uses of and comes up with some templing recipee (S) (T) in the com The Jerwood Fachion Prize. Documentery following young British feshion designers as they compete for this new competition (S) (T) (4543).

Looking Good. Lowri Tumer investigates male grooming. Plus, viewer Anne Louise Holland attempts to benish black from her wardrobe (S) (3678).

9.00 [ATOTE] Modern Times: Wexworks of the Rich and Femous. Documentary looking at life behind the scanes of Madame Tuseaud's. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (791727).

Biood on the Carpat. Documentary about the warring factions within the Countryside Alliance, which gethered in London last March to protest against the anti-hunt lobby (S) (T) (531949).

10.30 Newsnight. With Devid Aaronovitch (T) (955399).

10.30 10.40

London Tonight (T) (947901).

News Weather (T) (80758).

12.00 The Phil Silvers Show (68673).

11.40

Walk on the Wild 9ids. A history of gender-bending in the pop world, from Little Richard end David 9owle's Ziggy Stardust to Dane Infemetional (S) (T) (783746).

Intimeta and Liva. Live, enywey, as Kylle ue is filmed in concert (391307).

12.50

London Bridge. Capital soep. Thinge look bleak for leabel when Freddle takee the stand (S) (814).

Emmerdafe. Passion srupts, epperently, between Scott end Kelly (S) (T) (2849).

Coronation Streat. Nick and Leenne return from Canede with e bombshell for Audrey end Gell, while the Bettereby home le plunged into derknese (S) (T) (758).

[H:10] The 1999 Brit Awards. Johnny Vaughen hoste the UK's ennuel pop ewerds. See Music Show of the Dey, below (T) (7748).

11.00 Mark Thomes Comedy Product. Politicel estire (T) (5017).

9.00

Childran'e ITV: Jumerij (R) (S) (T) (6861104), 4.10 Whizziwig (T) (6036962), 4.40 Med for tt (2075746),

News | Weather (1) (544253). Homa and Away (S) (T) (9076543).

London Tonight. Regionel news update for the cepitel and the South-East (T) (562).

6.00 100 Per Cent. The geme show without e host (S) (6154901).

5.20 Sunset Baach. Merie ennouncee that her memory has returned in the soap that's so bad it's etmost settricel (S) (T) (5493479).

5.30 Family Affairs. Gabby organiss a gay right out for Clive (S) (T) (6145253).

3.30 IIIM The Oraat Pretendar (Gus Trikonis 1990 US). Pilot for e TV series that was never made. Bruce Greenwood pleys e journellet who uncovers corruption in high places while investigeling the murder of en eco-visionary (9541098).

7.00 9 News, Including First on Fiva. Kirety Young tottere off with the news (S) (T) (5908272).

7.30 Championa of Naturo. Wildlife documentery about Pescele Sicottes efforte to continue the late Dian Fossey's work with mountain gorillas (3) (1) (6174765).

7,00

5.30 The Rael Holidey Show. Real winter holidays this week. As one women tekes her first solo holidey on the Austrian eki slopes, enother cruisee the Anterotic and ecoupte go enowboarding (T) (8746).

9.00 ER. Rose becomes the new paedlatric ER ettending doctor, and Greene becomss Rechel's hero effer treating en unusual patient (S) (T) (4038).

10.30 Eurotreeh. Antoine De Caunes end more continentel oo-le-le (R) (S) (T) (19398). 10.00 Sex end the City. This week, the voracious New York thirtysomething women size up the pros end cone of twentysomething men (5) (1) (92340).

11.30 So Orahem Norton (863320). 12.10 Goerdstupid Goes Skiing (2200505). 12.48 Football Itelie: Mezze-notte (13789673). 3.10 Trens-world Sport (9124789). 4.05 IIIIM It's Never Too Leta (Micheel McCerthy 1959 US). A mother, thought by har femily to be rether dull is, unbsknown to them, a best-selling noveliet who has decided to try her hand at screenwriting. Phyllis Calvert sters (421673). To 5.45em.

IIIIII Deecending Angel (Jeremy Paul Kagen 1930 US). A Michigan chep sterte suspecting thet his flancée's seemingly cherming father le e Nezi war criminel. With Eric Roberts end Diene Lene (183499).

Master Clase (9441401). **3.05** Judge Judy (R) (S) (55309296). **3.20** Triehe (R) (9119760). **4.20** ITV Nightscreen (6457493). **5.30** News (63128). To 9sm.

ITV Carlton

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GMTV (5767730).

Trieha (S) (∏ (5210475), **10.30** Thie Morning (∏) (56935340), **12.20** Your Shout (6365543), **12.30** New Weather (T) (28253), **1.00** London Todey (∏ (49307), **1.30** The Jerry Springer Show (S) (∏ (1499104), **2.19** Home end Away (S) (∏ (332949), **2.45** Dele's Supermarket Sweep (S) (∏ (324920).

ITN Nawa Headlines (1) (2052958). 3.20 London Today (1) (5202479). 3.25 Cartoons (8974746).

1.50 (31) The Lamp Still 9 u

(S) (T) (6709123). 7.30 Milkshake! (S) (2907887). 7.35 Winzles House (R) (3961949). 9.00 Havekazoo (R) (S) (4737123). 9.30 Dappledown Farm (R) (S) (4736494). 9.00 Hot Property (R) (S) (T) (1429330). 9.25 Russell Grent's Postcerds (7154901). 9.30 The Opreh Winfrey Show (R) (8807185). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (1914878). 11.10 Leaze (S) (4216901). 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (4707992). 12a.30 Family Affairs (R) (S) (T) (6708494). 1.30 The Roseanna Show (S) (9758727). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (5804456). 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (1557036).

Monice Dickens' novel, One Peir of Feet, and produced by Leelle Howard – his last film before his plane wae shot down over Portugal. Rosemund John gives up her cereer as en erchitect to devote hereelf to nursing. Enter dashing Stewart Granger (46353272).

7.00 The Big Preekfeet (37562). 9.00 Saved by the Gell (R) (11475). 9.30 Sem end Mex (55307). 10.00 Eeris, Indiana (86340). 10.30 Sey Meets World (17659). 11.00 Mosehe (3036). 11.30 Madison (4765). 12.00 Seseme Street (T) (9161). 12.30 Bewitched (R) (T) (59123). 1.00 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (47949). 1.30 The Three Stogges (13404901).

3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (820), 4.00 Fifteen to One (S) (T) (727), 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (5738982), 4.55 Rickl Leke (S) (T) (3392165), 5.30 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (291),

8.00 Lata Lunch with Mei and Sue. Msi Gledroyo end Sue Perkine with more cookery end post-ironio chetter (34914).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Waather, including heedlinee et 7.30pm (5) (1) (147901).

8.00 Brooksida. Luke is denied ball, while Nikki must face the fact that she mey have been gang-reped (S) (T) (9611). 7.55 Zoom. Katerina Debbs film explores the idee of humen photocopying, as e model gets ready for e blinding flash (T) (494730).

5.00 Into the Flames. "Documentary series on the awesome power of fire" concludes with e look into new ways of combeting sircraft tires (S) (T) (1095494).

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9.00 IIII Original 9in (Ron Sell ordinery men rediscovere hie Sic 1al 9h (Ron Sellof 1899 US). An ediscovere hie Sicilian roote when his on ie ktdnepped by the Metle nomewhet strangely, by Charlton Heeton). en intriguing, but this TV movies primery nelodrametic ecript (S) (T) (99452543).

10.85 Malinda's Big Night In. Big Mais gueste includo Richard O'Brien and Alexis Arquette (S) (6092978).

11.35 UK Raw. New post-pub, post-Eurotresh shocker that is already gernering its makers plenty of walcome prapublicity over an item in tonight's show -- feeturing a bloke who pulls weights with his penie (S) (6900765). Ica Hockey (82038741), 4.35 The Movie Chert Show (99622419), 5.05 Move On Up (R) (S) (45905437), 5.30 100 Per Cent (R) (S) (9799012). To 6am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILIERT



RY OF THE DAY

MODERN TIMES: WAXWORKS OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS (Spm BBC2, right) Forget Hello!, the real test of who is in and who is out is to be found on the Marylebone Road of Medame Tussend's — where 300 wax replicas (costing £30,000 each) jostie for inclusion with the newly femous. Those that are deemed past it (Gooffrey Boycott, Steve Devis, Yuri Gagarin elc) are beheaded, apparently, and not melted down—though a tucky few might get a second chance. Cethy Rogers' entertaining documentary is there on the day that Kylie Minogue unveils her second coming, and heers from other

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FILM OF THE DAY

THE IDOLMAKER (12.35em 9BCt) One of the best evocetions of lie early years of rockn'roll, this 1980 directoriel debut by Taylor Heckford tright? conteins e dynamic performance from Ray Sharkey es "Vincent Vacsrri" – e thinly veiled representation of Boh Msrcurri, the promoter who pushed Frankle Avalon and Fabism to sterdom. Toveh Feldshuh co-stars as the fenzine editor who has e fling with Vacarri and fielps plug "bis boys". On the unbut side, trowever, the script loses its thread ebout helfway through, and Jeff Barry's iste-Seventies



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